University of Colorado
Challenge Ropes Course
Department of Recreation Services
# Challenge Ropes Course
## DESIGN-BUILD CRITERIA
Department of Recreation Services  
University of Colorado at Boulder

## Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Committee</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction and Overview</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Project Information</td>
<td>5 - 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicinity Plan</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submittal Requirements</td>
<td>7 - 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenge Course Specifications</td>
<td>9-10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Challenge Ropes Course
DESIGN-BUILD CRITERIA
Department of Recreation Services
University of Colorado at Boulder

Building Committee

Department of Recreation Services

John Meyer, Associate Director of Programs, Recreation Services
Tim Jorgensen, Coord. Director of Outdoor Programs, Recreation Services

Facilities Management

Richelle Reilly, Campus Landscape Architect, Office of Planning Design & Construction
Introduction and Overview

The University of Colorado at Boulder is accepting proposals for the design and installation of a Challenge Course on campus property. The purpose a Challenge Course is to enable individuals to positively impact their personal and professional lives through experiential learning. The purpose of the CU Challenge Course project is to create an exceptional Challenge Course for students, faculty, staff, and the community to utilize locally. The course will be the first of its kind on CU campus property and is intended to be a “state-of-the-art” design, construction, equipment, training, safety, and programming. The primary goals of the Challenge Course are:

- Serve as a creative tool to enhance teambuilding, leadership, communication, trust and conflict resolution.
- Directly engage individuals in experiential learning in an outdoor learning “laboratory”.
- Save numerous organizations and departments, including student organizations and ROTC units, who spend thousands of dollars each year participating in similar courses close to Boulder.
- Serve as a revenue generator.

Students who complete the course should:

- Be prepared to serve as effective leaders and followers in a variety of situations and to work effectively with diverse teams.
- Be enabled to develop trust and support within a group.
- Be equipped with an understanding of leadership and valuable leadership skills such as communication, accountability, cohesion, motivation, and/or value identification in order to have an impact both professionally and personally on society.
- Be able to think critically and creatively, and communicate effectively.
- Be able to push personal boundaries in order to learn more about what they are capable of achieving.
- Have experienced a feeling of personal worth and accomplishment.
- Have had an enjoyable, physical and emotional experience.
- Have experienced the learning process.
- Aspire to continue their development as team players and leaders through ongoing study and practice.

The course may also be used by faculty members for other experiential learning outcomes. Such outcomes will be established by each faculty or staff member before any program is facilitated. For example, a spanish instructor may have students complete the course in spanish, giving her students to opportunity to practice their conversational spanish. Students organizations, ROTC groups, athletic teams, staff, businesses, civic groups, churches, government agencies, non-profit groups, and corporations may also utilized the course with varying learning outcomes.
Challenge Ropes Course
DESIGN-BUILD CRITERIA
Department of Recreation Services
University of Colorado at Boulder

General Project Information

I. Project Site:
   a. The site location is in Williams Village, Pod I east of Bear Creek.
   b. The size of the site is 1.29 acres and will be enclosed by an eight foot fence.
   c. The site is located within the Bear Creek 100 year Floodplain.
   d. Survey Information can be obtained by email by contacting Phil Martin - MartinP@Colorado.edu

Challenge Course Site

- Williams Village – Pod I
Challenge Ropes Course
DESIGN-BUILD CRITERIA
Department of Recreation Services
University of Colorado at Boulder

General Project Information

II. Course Usage and Staffing:
   a. The CU Challenge Course will strive to meet the needs of extremely diverse participants including students, faculty, staff of Colorado University as well as youth, community, and corporate groups.
   b. Proposals should include a high degree of flexibility of group size, staffing, age, individual challenge, group challenge, and time required should be allowed. The course should be accessible to people with a variety of physical abilities and challenges.
   c. The average group size will range between 8 and 30 individuals at a time, although the course should allow for larger groups to be facilitated.
   d. Participants may be as young as 10 years old.
   e. Course should allow for wheelchair access.
   f. Part-time or full-time professional staff members will be available to facilitate the course. Part-time paid student leaders will also be employed to facilitate the course.

Consultant Requirements

I. Design & Construction Requirements
   a. The course must be designed and built in accordance with the course specifications included in this document as well all Colorado laws, national safety guidelines, and industry standards regarding design, construction, or certification of similar structures.
   b. The designer shall work closely with the University of Colorado at Boulder on the design before final approval is given.
   c. All elements must be able to be secured to prevent unwanted access.
   d. The Challenge Course installer must have a minimum of three (3) years experience installing ropes courses and must be a current level III or IV Professional Vendor and a Member of the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT).
   e. The installer must offer services of installation, annual safety inspections, and technical training. The installer must adhere to ACCT Installation Standards 6th Edition in all areas of construction.
Submittal Requirements

I. General Program Description
   a. Provide a summary of the overall concept your company is proposing, including a
description your company’s philosophy on challenge courses, and how your company will
assist the University of Colorado at Boulder in establishing a Challenge course that offers
“state-of-the-art” design, construction, equipment, training, facilitation, programming, and
safety.
   b. Include a minimum of 3 case studies where you can document similar size challenge
course programs at other colleges and universities to the one proposed for the University
of Colorado.
   c. Provide current certification of Professional Vendor Membership in the Association of
Challenge Course Technology (ACCT).
   d. Include a list of references of other sites with similar challenge course programs to the one
proposed at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Provide contact names and
information, including telephone, fax, and email addresses. Provide the date of program
installation.
   e. List the staff person (s) who will assist the University of Colorado at Boulder.

II. Project Information
   a. Provide detailed drawings of the course design and each individual element according to
project requirements specified in this RFP. All designs should be in accordance with the
standards specified in the project requirements. Proposals should include a high degree of
flexibility of group size, staffing, age, individual challenge, group challenge, and time
required should be allowed. The course should be accessible to people with a variety of
physical abilities and challenges.
   b. Provide technical specifications for all products proposed.
   c. Provide warranty information for all materials proposed.
   d. Include cost of annual safety inspections, estimated annual maintenance costs and
applicable training.

Design / Engineering:
Any necessary engineering shall be stamped by a licensed Colorado engineer.
Challenge Ropes Course
DESIGN-BUILD CRITERIA
Department of Recreation Services
University of Colorado at Boulder

Submittal Requirements

III. Installation & Site Prep
   a. Provide cost of all materials and labor for site prep, ground cover/mulch, all building
      materials, pole setting, and construction of all elements.
   b. Provide cost of all materials and labor for surrounding fence and gate.
   c. Provide a detailed installation schedule and the earliest date installation would be possible.
      Installation of challenge course should be completed in one visit.

IV. Security & Safety
   a. Provide details showing how all elements are able to be secured.
   b. Provide information, including cost if applicable of safety equipment and manuals.

V. Staffing & Training
   a. Provide a description of proposed staff training program (should cover safety, use of the
      course, rescue techniques, and programming assistance) for approximately 10-12 staff
      members. Include the time required for training. Include as an option the costs for
      additional staff members to be trained.
   b. Include proposed staffing plans required for various group sizes utilizing the course.

VI. Supplies and Equipment
   a. Include all specifications including warranty information and costs of all supplies and
      operational equipment needed for the course.

VII. Financial Information
   a. Please provide a detailed budget proposal including any possible costs associated with the
      installation and training for the CU Challenge Course. This should include course
      materials, labor, equipment rental, training, housing, travel, meals, annual inspections,
      maintenance, future training, and operational equipment.
   b. While financial information may be reviewed as a major part of the proposal, it will not be
      the only consideration.

VIII. Expansion and Future Development
   a. Course design should be complete to include all elements listed. If budgetary concerns
      arise, client may choose to phase elements over time. Consultant should provide cost
      information for potential expansion of this course. All elements to include designs,
      technical product information, and operating equipment.
Challenge Ropes Course
DESIGN-BUILD CRITERIA
Department of Recreation Services
University of Colorado at Boulder

Challenge Course Specifications

The Course site sits within the Bear Creek Floodway and 100 year Flood Plain. The surrounding fence and all elements shall not encroach within 25’ of the Bear Creek Bank and no impervious surface can be applied within 50’ of the creek bed.

The CU Challenge Course will require the incorporation of both High Ropes and Low Ropes elements in the overall design. The entire course shall be built on poles that are CCA treated. Each individual pole to be stamped to signify it meets all requirements of CCA.

High Ropes Elements

The high ropes course should consist of six elements with a dual belay system; static and dynamic (ground belay). Additionally it should consist of 2-3 ground belayed elements. The high course should include a minimum of 2 solo elements and 2 team high elements. Participants should exit the course use a zip line. A ground school should be established separately from this structure to mimic the high ropes course. The course should be designed to promote team development as well as individual development. Please include dimensions of all elements.

The high elements the University of Colorado would like to see incorporated into a High Ropes Course:
1. Giant's Swing
2. Climbing Tower that is 50 feet in height
3. Burma Bridge
4. Catwalk
5. Multivine Traverse
6. Pamper Pole with fixed target

Ground School Description
Include a three transfer station ground school built approximately 18” off the ground. This ground school shall mimic the high challenge course and be used for teaching both belay and rescue procedures.

Construction specifications
All cable terminations, and belay cables should meet the Association for Challenge Course Technology construction standards. All fasteners should be galvanized and meet international building code. All decks, railings and roof joist should meet international building code. Construction should meet the Association for Challenge course Technology standards. Please include specifications of construction materials, including: classification, height and diameter of poles being used, specifications for cables, staples and quick links.
Challenge Ropes Course
DESIGN-BUILD CRITERIA
Department of Recreation Services
University of Colorado at Boulder

Challenge Course Specifications

Low Ropes Elements

General Course Description: Five (5) low ropes elements should be placed as far apart from each other as possible to facilitate small group's ability to isolate from other small groups to provide for program quality. Four of the five possible elements are detailed below:

1. Mohawk walk
This should be a well built Mohawk walk with the following considerations: It should have varied wire spans/traverses – some short (6-8ft), some long (no more than 25 ft). It also should have overhead supports of hanging "vines" or ropes in some sections, and long attached ropes coming from above that can be used to support participants while crossing. This should be somewhat linear and not circular. It should be doable and not too hard to be accomplished without step offs. Moderately skilled groups should be able to be successful without an act of god.

2. Team Wall
This wall should be 12’ wall. The backside of the wall must have a railed platform for participant safety and a ladder to descend.

3. Spider’s Web
4. Trust Fall

Note: If there are budgetary issues, some of the low ropes elements may be phased at a later date. Please include (5) elements in the design.

Alternates / Options:

1. List all poles required for project as an alternate cost.

Questions regarding this Request for Proposal should be submitted in writing via email to:
Richelle Reilly
Campus Landscape Architect
Office of Planning Design & Construction
University Of Colorado at Boulder
rreilly@colorado.edu

Site Survey Information can be obtained via email from
Phil Martin – Facilities Management CAD Department
303 492-2423
Martinp@colorado.edu