

Climbing Anchors School

Arizona Mountaineering Club
Spring 2020

The AMC Climbing Anchors School teaches participants how to design and set climbing anchors for top-roping. This course is the logical next step for AMC Basic Climbing School graduates. These skills are also an essential prerequisite for the AMC Lead Climbing School which is focused on trad climbing.

Class curriculum:

Tuesday: Learn anchor components, anchor types, knots and hitches.
Thursday: Learn anchor system characteristics and construction.
Saturday: Gain experience setting anchors by practicing “hands-on” scenarios under instructor supervision.

Class schedule:

Apr 14	Tuesday	5:30 pm–9:30 pm	*Phoenix – North Mountain Visitor Center
Apr 16	Thursday	6:00 pm–9:30 pm	Phoenix – North Mountain Visitor Center
Apr 18	Saturday	8:00 am–4:00 pm	Sullivan’s Canyon (Chino Valley)

* North Mountain Visitor Center is located south of Thunderbird Rd on the west side of 7th St (12950 N 7th St, Phx AZ 85029)

Experience required: AMC Basic School graduate or equivalent, which must include knowledge of how to belay, rappel, prusik, tie a figure-8-on-a-bight and figure-8-on-a-follow-through, munter hitch, grapevine, and stopper knot.

Cost: \$125 plus membership if not already a member (\$40 for an individual and \$50 for a family). Membership is good through December 2020. Register by the Paypal link on the website (you DON’T need to have a PayPal account) at <http://arizonamountaineeringclub.net/schools/anchors-school/> or if you need to send a check you can contact Scott Kuchman at amcanchorsschool@gmail.com for the snail mail address. The registration fee is fully refundable, though membership is not, if you cancel. Contact Scott Kuchman by email: amcanchorsschool@gmail.com for more info. The number of students will be limited to 25.

Equipment required for the class:

2 non-locking "D" or oval carabiners (at least 2, bring more if you have them)
3 locking carabiners (at least 3, one of which should be a parabiner)
1 rappel/belay device (tube device such as Trango Jaws or Black Diamond ATC)
1 climbing harness
1 ea 4', 6', 10' 6mm prusiks (untied length)
1 **20' 7mm accessory cord** (cordelette)
1 ea 10', 20' slings (1" tubular webbing, untied length, AKA runners)
1 personal anchor slings (commercial PAS or 4' sewn nylon runners or equivalent)
1 double length (48") sewn nylon sling (typically 11/16" wide)
1 helmet—**required for the Saturday session**, helmets are available if you do not have one.

NOTE: the **20' sling, 7mm cordelette, and harness** are the only additional equipment needed over the Basic School requirements)

This class is designed to teach you how to set top-rope anchors. In order to become independent and set your own anchors, you should start acquiring anchor gear. These purchases will be limited by how much money you want/have to spend and how much interest you have in climbing independently. The following gear is not required for Anchors School, but if you have some, you will be able to practice setting it in class. All of the gear recommended below can be used for Lead School, and none of it will be wasted if you intend to set your own anchors. All gear should be marked prior to bringing it to class to prevent confusion between it and other people’s gear. If you don’t know how to mark gear, check with an instructor before doing so to avoid weakening equipment due to improper marking.

Other gear you may want to bring:

- Any pro you may have (hexes, nuts, camming devices, Tri-cams, etc.)
- Extra biners (regular D’s, ovals, and lockers—stay away from specialty biners at this time)
- Extra slings (perhaps four 24” “shoulder length” runners)

For more information: Visit the Arizona Mountaineering Club website at www.arizonamountaineeringclub.org.