REPORT

2019

## WASHINGTON CLIMBER SURVEY



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## SUGGESTED CITATION

Carter, David P. 2019. 2019 Washington Climber Survey Summary Report. Washington Climbers Coalition: Seattle, WA.

## **WCC CONTACT**

For questions regarding climbing advocacy and stewardship in Washington:

www.washingtonclimbers.org info@washingtonclimbers.org

## RESEARCH CONTACT

For questions regarding this research project:

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## WCC C

## ABOUT THE

The WCC is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit made up of climbers who believe that we must work together and cooperatively with land managers and other groups with an interest in the places where we climb. Without such cooperation, we risk losing access to places we cherish. We take care of where we climb and strive to keep climbing areas open.

Our mission is to make Washington a better place to climb through advocacy, stewardship, and education.

## **OUR MESSAGE**

Washington possesses a remarkably diverse array of climbing areas, with every type of rock, landscape, and climate imaginable and a full range of difficulties and disciplines.

It can be tempting to take this incredible gift for granted, however, every time we climb we are visitors on the land. Even if it is public land, we do not control it. The climbing community needs to work together to make sure that our climbing areas remain open and free, both for



our own enjoyment and that of future generations. The WCC keeps Washington climbing vibrant by working with land managers and property owners on climbing access issues, educating climbers about legal, environmental and resource concerns, and promoting climber stewardship of our cliffs and boulders.

You can get involved in several ways:

- Be a good steward of the climbing environment
- Join us for stewardship events
- Volunteer for projects
- Support us with a donation



# SURVE

This survey was conducted by the Washington Climbers Coalition (WCC), in collaboration with Dr. David Carter, assistant professor of public policy at the University of Utah. The overarching survey objective was to offer a snapshot of Washington climbers' characteristics, experiences, and perspectives. Survey findings will be used to inform and improve climbing stewardship and advocacy initiatives throughout the state of Washington.

## **METHODS**

The survey was carried out online from October 1 to November 6, 2019. To reach the greatest number of Washington climbers possible, requests for participation were sent via email to the WCC's contact list and published on its social media channels. Survey advertisements were also shared with industry and nonprofit partners, such as The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Institute, and Alpine Ascents International. A total of 987 completed surveys were collected, alongside data from 45 partiallycompleted ones, for an overall response of 1,032 climbers.

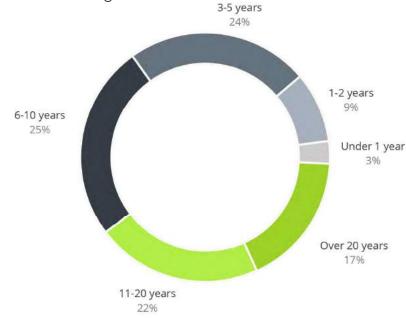


## CLIMBING BACKGROUNDS

Part 1 of the survey asked questions regarding participants' climbing backgrounds, experiences, and preferences.

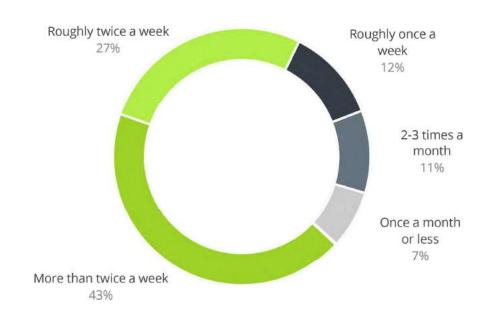
## **QUESTION 1**



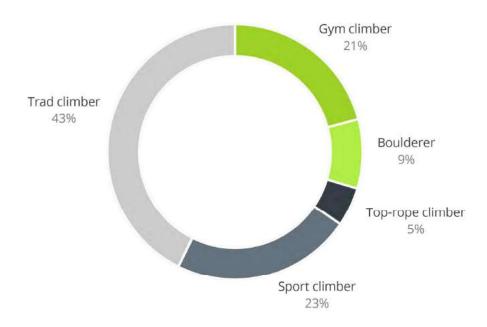


## **QUESTION 2**

How often do you climb (both indoors and outdoors)?

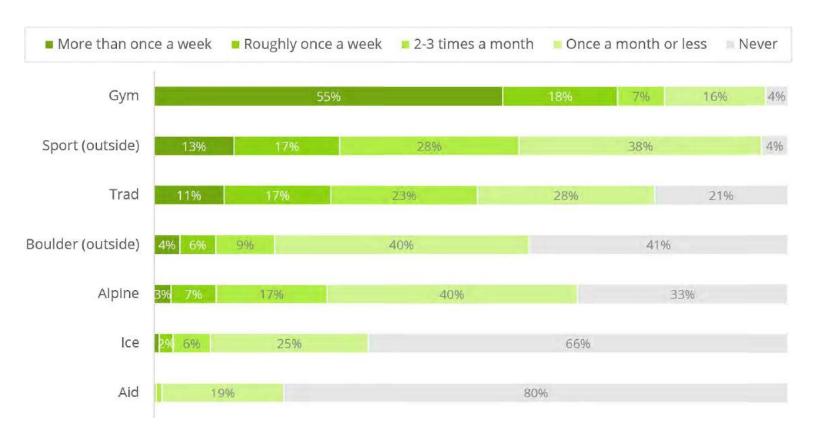


What type of climber do you *think of yourself as*?

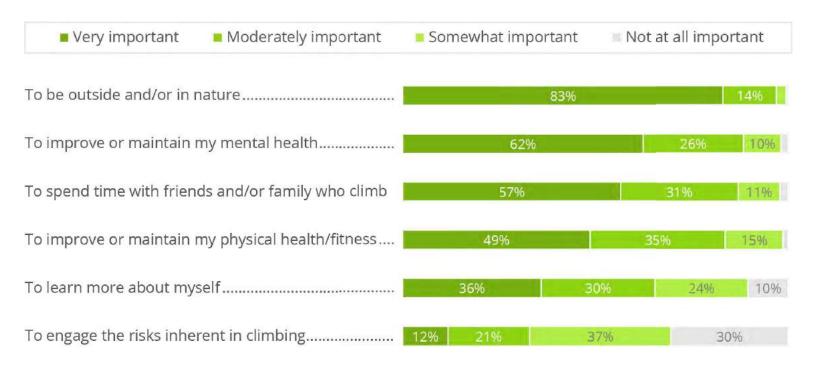


## **QUESTION 4**

How frequently do you engage in the following types of climbing? For outdoor climbing, respond with the frequency during your preferred climbing season.

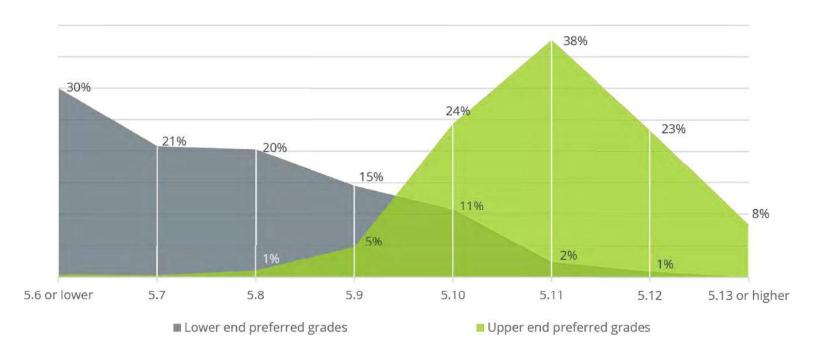


How important are the following motivations in your decision to climb?

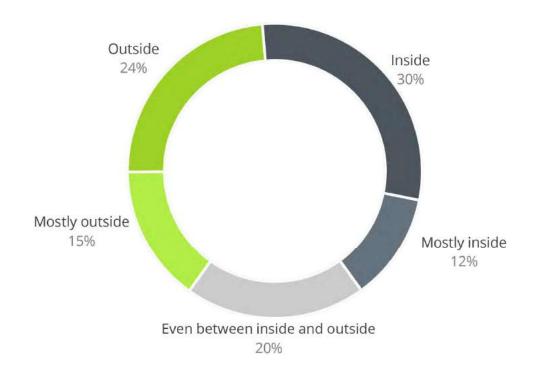


## **QUESTION 6**

What are the lower and upper ends of your preferred range of climbing route grades?

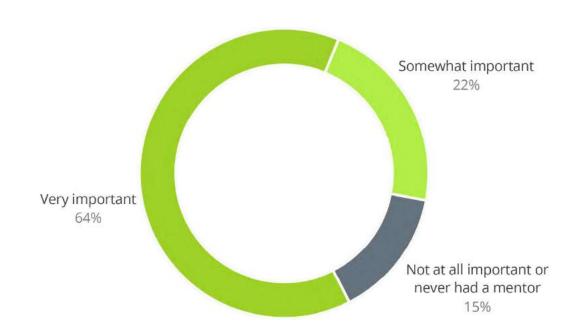


Which of the following best describes where you first learned to climb?

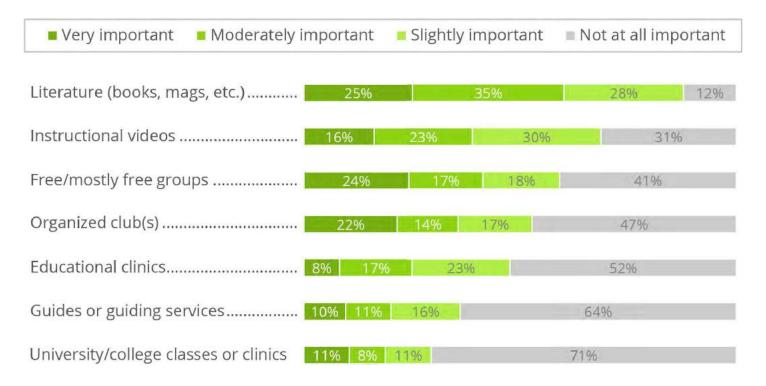


## **QUESTION 8**

How important was mentorship from one or more mentors when you were learning to climb? For this question, a "mentor" is a climbing partner with more climbing experience who gave you one-on-one climbing education and/or experience.

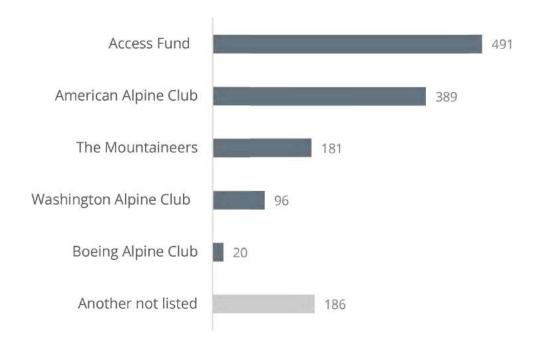


How important were the following other education/mentorship sources when you were learning to climb?

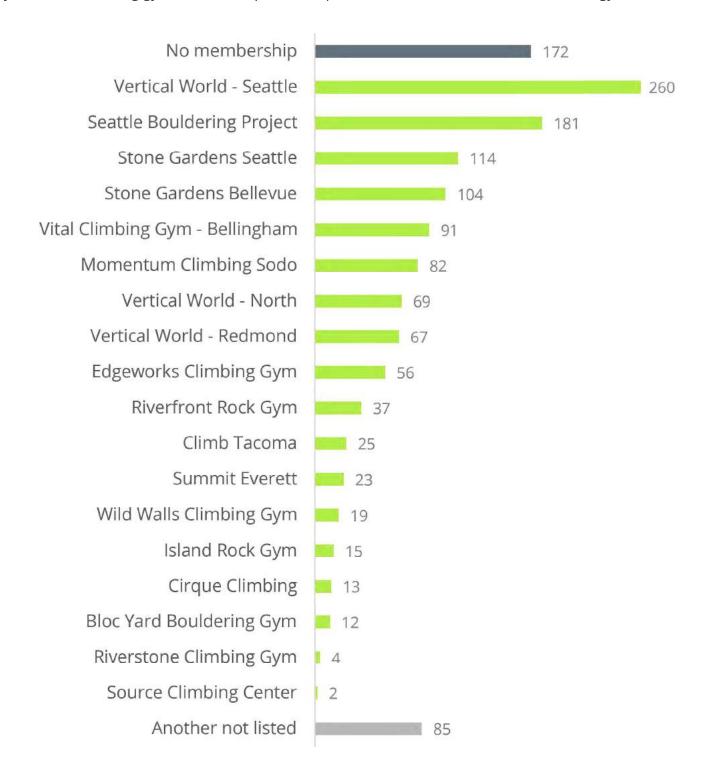


## **QUESTION 10**

What climbing organizations are you a member of? Select all that apply:

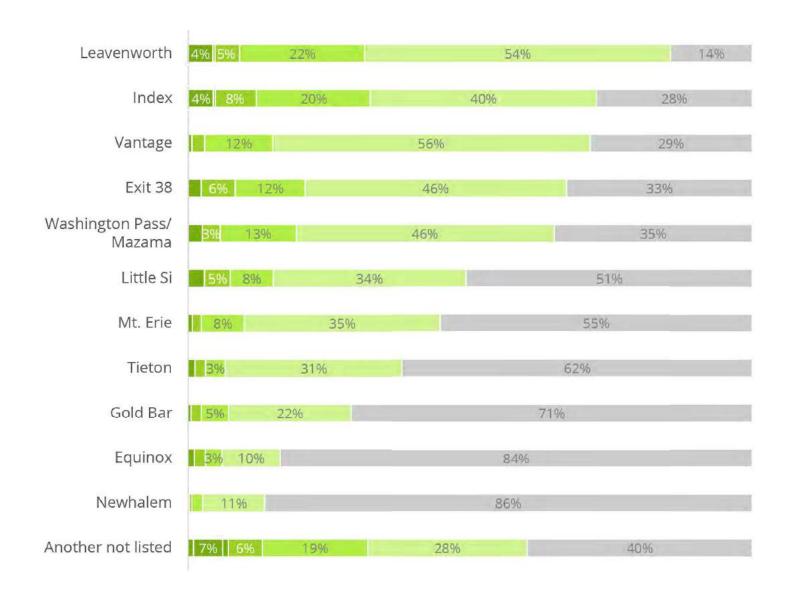


Did you have a climbing gym membership at some point in the last 12 months? If so, which gym(s)?



How frequently do you climb at the following areas during your preferred climbing season(s)?





How many climbing trips outside of Washington do you generally make in a year?

