

# West Central Florida Council

## Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience COPE

### General Policies and Guidelines FAQ

The West Central Florida Council COPE Facility located at Sand Hill Scout Reservation features eight highly challenging COPE events. COPE is a high ropes challenge or obstacle course that is designed to challenge kids physically, mentally, and emotionally. Its purpose is to build self-confidence, leadership, and positive group behavior in the participants. The COPE course is available to all Boy Scouts of America units both within and outside West Central Florida Council.

#### ☞☞ Who can use the COPE Facility?

- You must be 13 years old to participate in COPE
- Any Scout, Scouter, or Venture Crew can use the COPE course

#### ☞☞ What is required to use the COPE Facility?

- The COPE course is generally open one Saturday a month to anyone who desires to try it out. Check the council calendar for the scheduled “Open COPE” days. A usage permit requesting the COPE facility must be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance to the West Central Florida Council Service Center. Non-West Central Florida Council units must submit proof of insurance along with their usage permits.
- Multiple units may sign up for the COPE course on the same weekend

#### ☞☞ What do we need to bring?

- Everyone should wear a sturdy pair of tennis shoes or boots that lace up tightly
- Shorts or loose fitting pants and a shirt that tucks in are required
- A fee of \$3 per person for in council units will be collected at the facility
- A fee of \$5 per person for out of council units will be collected at the facility
- Bring sufficient water for the group since we do not have water at the COPE course

#### ☞☞ How many units or people can use the COPE course?

- About 20-25 kids is a maximum number for the COPE course
- Multiple units can share the facility at any one time; we have more than enough equipment
- To run the COPE course at full capacity, you will want about 5 Certified COPE Instructors

#### ☞☞ Can we bring our own equipment?

- You are permitted to bring your personal harness and helmet
- All personal equipment must have a CE or UIAA certification marking and be no more than seven years old
- The on-site COPE Director has the final say if the personal equipment may be used
- No other personal or group equipment is permitted

**⚡⚡ How much time do we need?**

- Plan for 3 hours to let everyone in a 10-person group to get a chance to do all the COPE elements
- Plan for more time if the group gets larger

**⚡⚡ What does it take to become a Certified COPE Instructor?**

- You must be at least 18 years old
- You must complete a 12-hour training course
- You must operate the facility on two separate occasions under the supervision of a COPE Director
- You must have CPR and First Aid training cards
- Your certification lasts for two years maximum
- You must actively use and operate the Facility within the last 12 months or your certification expires

**⚡⚡ What if I got my COPE Instructor Certification outside of WCFC?**

- You must show proof of your certification to a WCFC COPE Director
- You must spend a couple hours reviewing the facilities anchor systems, emergency plan, and documentation process with a WCFC COPE Director