

Routesetting Committee Statement

As Professional Routesetters active in the USA Climbing Competition Series' and with experience in commercial, recreational, educational, and competitive climbing, our goal is to promote the development of routesetting as a professional trade. Through the USAC Routesetting Certification and Internship Program we intend to certify and equip any and all setters with the tools and knowledge needed in professional setting. We aspire to represent and support the interests of routesetters across the country and work to ensure fair and safe practices; provide instruction on techniques, styles, and methods; and establish and maintain standards within the industry. These standards include protocols for setting in various indoor climbing environments, levels of certification for commercial and competition setting, and fair compensation guidelines for all types of routesetting.

We endeavor to continually develop our own skills, collaborate with others to understand the growth and changes within our trade, and work in general to increase recognition of routesetting within the broader climbing community.

USAC Routesetting Certification Program

Contact abs@usacimbing.org for more information on USAC Routesetting, Clinic scheduling

Level 1 Clinic and Certification: *Introduction to Commercial and Basic Competition Routesetting.* Level 1 certifies a participant to set at the ABS and SCS local levels and establishes proficient knowledge of the trade for beginner to advanced routesetters interested in professional development and the potential for advancement in commercial and competition setting.

Level 2 Clinic and Certification: *Advanced Competition Routesetting.* Level 2 certifies a participant to set at the ABS Regional and/or SCS Divisional Level according to their certification to either a V grade for bouldering, YDS grade for sport-climbing, or both, if applicable. Level 2 is intended for advanced routesetters interested in developing their technical skills for high-level competition and becoming more involved in Routesetting for major USA Climbing events. Certified Level 2 Routesetters are eligible for invitation to set USA Climbing National, Pro, and Exhibition level events.

Benefits of being a USAC Certified Routesetter:

- USAC Certificate of Achievement (documented authorization to set at grade for Level 2)
- Routesetting Profile listed on USAC website
- USAC Routesetting Handbook
- Eligible to set at ABS/SCS Regional/Divisional/National by USAC invitation (Level 2 only)
- Eligible for Routesetting Committee Membership by invitation

Objectives of the Routesetting Clinic and Certification Program

- Promote the professional development of Routesetting as an occupation in commercial, recreational, and educational climbing facilities.
- Establish consistent criteria for the instruction of routesetting techniques, styles, and methods – based on skill-sets established by years of experience accumulated by members of the Routesetting Committee and international guidelines.

- Establish and maintain standards for competition routesetting through advanced competition training and consistent reference to the development of, and changes in, international guidelines.
- Provide routesetters with standards for achievement in the field, and create and maintain a network of talented and well-trained setters as members of USAC and at climbing facilities across the country.
- Educate setters on fair, safe and useful practices for setting in various environments and for various types of climbers in order to promote climbing for all recreational, training, and competitive participants.

Grandfather Clause:

Setters who completed the Tony Yaniro Routesetter Certification Training between January 2004 and January 2007 and who currently fulfill the criteria for active setters will be grandfathered into the USAC Routesetter Certification at Level 1 if they renew their USAC Supporting Membership regardless of whether the former Certification has expired. Setters who completed the Yaniro clinic AND who have set at the ABS Regional, or SCS Divisional level in that time period 2 or more times will be grandfathered in as Level 2 Routesetters if they renew their USAC Membership. Setters who have not completed these clinics but have set at the National level at least twice in that period and approved by the Routesetting Committee, will be grandfathered in as Level 2 Routesetters.

USAC Setter Internship Program

USAC Setter Internship Program is a way for setters to become level 1 and level 2 certified during a USAC sanctioned competition. There is no fee for the internship program and USAC does not provide travel or pay to the intern. By filling out an application for a USAC national level event or USAC exhibition you will become eligible to be considered for a non paid setter position for the chosen event. The USAC Route Setting Committee will review all applications and select up to 2 setters for an event for the Internship Program. Chosen setters will be expected to be able to perform the same duties as a paid certified USAC Setter for the event so applicants will need to have prior large event experience and supply the USAC Setting Committee with referrals. After a setter has completed an event through the Mentorship Program the USAC Route Setting Committee will decide if he/she will receive level 1 or level 2 certification.