

270 Climbing Squad Trials

Event Information

We're excited to announce the upcoming 270 Squad Trials, taking place on Saturday 1st November and Sunday 2nd November at 270 Climbing Park (GL3 4UD).

Following feedback from last year, we have improved both the trial process and the proposed squad schedules. Our aim is to create a fun and supportive event for current squad members, while also welcoming new climbers to apply.

Important: Assessment is not based only on trial performance. Selection also considers previous performance and behaviors, so climbers don't need to worry about having a "perfect trial."

If applying for both bouldering and lead squads, you will complete both elements on the same day according to your category.

Please complete the application form here: <https://forms.gle/whp9wQ4hHSb7rq7c8>

Trial Dates & Categories

(Categories are based on 2026 national age groups)

Saturday 1st November:

- U11 (born 2016/2017)
- U13 (born 2014/2015)
- U15 (born 2012/2013)

Sunday 2nd November:

- U17 (born 2010/2011)
- U19 (born 2008/2009)
- U21 (born 2006/2007)
- 21+ (born 2005 or earlier)

We can accept younger climbers than U11, but please email us in advance to book.

Attendance requirements

- Performance squad applicants must attend.
- Climbers wishing to move from Development → Performance or Squad (Academy) → Development should attend.
- If your group is discontinued Liz will also be in touch.

Trial Format

Bouldering:

- 2 sets of 3 blocs
- 4 minutes on / 4 minutes off
- Coaching is permitted during attempts
- Viewing and discussing blocs with friends is encouraged
- Break between sets

Roped Climbing:

- 3 routes
- Rests between attempts

Important: Please bring food and warm layers for breaks.

After the trials, climbers may continue climbing in designated areas (with parent supervision if under 16).

Costs

- Free for existing squad members
- £25 for non-squad participants

If your child cannot lead climb but would still like to take part, please contact us – we can accommodate this.

Assessment Criteria

Selection is based on a balanced review:

- 40% Benchmarking during trials
- 40% Previous performance (events, squad, outdoor climbing)
- 20% Performance behaviors (published on Spond as part of the athlete development pathway)

Squad Pathways

Squad (formerly Academy) – 1.5 hrs:

- Fun, social environment with coaching support
- Focus on eagerness to learn and commitment to basics

Development Squad – 2.5 hrs:

- Structured training to build competition-level skills
- “Train to train” stage with progression towards performance squad
- Suitable for climbers balancing multiple sports

Performance Squad – 2.5 hrs (U13–U19):

- For climbers training at or above national level
- Individualised training overseen by head coach
- Must train at least 3x per week and warm up before sessions

Senior Squad – 2.5 hrs (ages 16–27):

- Mixed development and performance group
- Tailored support for performance athletes

Weekly Schedule (*Proposed*)

Sessions may vary depending on numbers and interest.

Monday – Squad (4:45pm rope), Development (6:30pm boulder), Senior (6:30pm rope)

Tuesday – Development (6:30pm boulder), Performance (6:30pm rope – 2 Groups)

Wednesday – Squad (4:45pm boulder), Development (6:30pm boulder)

Thursday – Development (6:30pm boulder), Performance (6:30pm boulder – 2 Groups)

Friday – Development (6:30pm rope & 6:30pm boulder), Senior (6:30pm boulder)

Saturday – Squad (1:00pm rope)

Key Dates

- Trials: 1st–2nd November
- Offers sent by: 14th November
- New Programme starts: 1st December (subject to appeals/spaces returned)

Contacts

- Appeals & special requests: lizl@270climbing.com
- General squad/trial queries: squad@270climbing.com

Don't forget to apply via the form: <https://forms.gle/whp9wQ4hHSb7rq7c8>