

New York State Department of Civil Service
DIVISION OF CLASSIFICATION & COMPENSATION

Tentative Classification Standard

Occ. Code 1558100

Rope Access Specialist 1, Grade 18	1558100
Rope Access Specialist 2, Grade 23	1558200
Rope Access Specialist 3, Grade 25	1558300

Brief Description of Class Series

Rope Access Specialists perform, assist in the oversight of, or oversee the use of rappelling equipment and practice to access, inspect, and perform maintenance and repair work on areas that are otherwise inaccessible within the State parks system. They coordinate with agency environmental staff to manage invasive and endangered plant populations in these areas.

These positions are classified only at the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Rope Access Specialist 1: performs inspections and maintenance of cliff and gorge walls to monitor erosion and ensure the safety of patrons and employees traversing below; mitigates trees that pose a safety risk to employees, patrons, and State Park facilities; and inspects bridges and installs lifelines for fall protection for trail and bridge repair staff.

Rope Access Specialist 2: oversees a crew of Scalers and Rope Access Specialists to manage projects as assigned by the Rope Access Specialist 3; assists in the oversight and performance of inspections and maintenance of cliff and gorge walls to monitor erosion and ensure the safety of patrons and employees traversing below; and oversees the installation of lifelines for fall protection for trail and bridge repair staff.

Rope Access Specialist 3: oversees the Rope Access Program under the Health & Safety Bureau and coordinates with bureau and regional management to plan and oversee the execution of all agency scaling and rope access projects and activities.

Related Classes

Scalers, NS, remove dangerous, loose, or potentially unstable material, or small sections of slope, from gorge walls to ensure the safety of park visitors and employees.

Incumbents descend cliffs in park gorges using highly specialized equipment, including a fireman's pike pole, communication device, and camera to remove loose rock and examine cliff walls for signs of fault problems and other dangerous situations. Incumbents descend cliffs and gorges in Parks locations, using highly specialized equipment; ensure that loose rocks and debris will not fall from cliff walls; and use cameras to produce a photographic chronology record.

Illustrative Tasks

Rope Access Specialist 1

Rappels down gorge and cliff walls to access otherwise inaccessible locations up to hundreds of feet in the air.

Routinely calculates vector forces to determine the required rope access equipment needed, and the placement thereof, to ensure safe descension on rappel lines.

Performs inspections and maintenance of cliff and gorge walls to monitor erosion and ensure the safety of patrons and employees traversing below.

Applies technical methods in the use of chainsaws, ladder trucks, and other cutting and power tools while rappelling, or in locations only accessible by rope, to mitigate trees that pose a safety risk to employees, patrons, and State park facilities.

Identifies, removes, or treats for invasive plant and animal species and reintroduce endangered and at-risk species in difficult to reach locations.

Prepares and sets up equipment for researchers to study park environments in difficult to reach locations.

Removes unpermitted items on cliff faces such as platforms and climbing equipment.

Installs and repairs fencing on gorge trails and cliffs to ensure the safety of park patrons and employees.

Installs geotechnical and structural crack monitoring equipment to track erosion and mitigate risk to employees and patrons.

Utilizes rope access equipment to clear and maintain otherwise inaccessible viewsheds.

Aids Park Police in search and reconnaissance efforts, gathering information, and documentation for over-cliff emergencies.

Regularly inspects and maintains rope access equipment to prevent and note wear and tear, and to ensure safe use.

Rope Access Specialists 2

May perform any of the duties listed for Rope Access Specialists 1.

Oversees a crew of Scalers and Rope Access Specialists performing small-to-mid sized projects.

Assists in the oversight and performance of inspections and maintenance of cliff and gorge walls to monitor erosion and ensure the safety of patrons and employees traversing below.

Oversees a rope access crew to inspect bridges and install lifelines for fall protection for trail and bridge repair staff; and to install and repair fencing on gorge trails and cliffs to ensure the safety of park patrons and employees.

Inspects and addresses trees that pose a risk to the safety of employees, patrons, and State park facilities in hard to reach locations, including use of power tools and other equipment while rappelling.

Oversees a rope access crew in the management of rare, endangered, and invasive plant and animal life by removing and/or treating for invasives, and reintroducing endangered and at-risk species.

Oversees the installation and removal of geotechnical and structural crack monitoring equipment, removal of loose rock from cliff walls, removal of invasive plant species and the planting of endangered plant species, and more while suspended via a specialized rappel system.

Conducts fall-protection training for all Rope Access Specialists, trainees, and scalers.

Assists in providing introductory rope access training to new or less-seasoned Rope Access Specialists and seasonal Scalers.

Operates drones for cliff erosion monitoring and environmental information gathering.

Assists in coordination of procuring and inspecting scaling and rope access equipment, managing inventories, and submitting purchase requests.

Ensures that scalers, rope handlers and Rope Access Specialists follow all safety procedures.

Supervises lower-level Rope Access Specialists 1 and seasonal Scalers.

Rope Access Specialists 3

Oversees the Rope Access Program within the Health & Safety Bureau.

Coordinates with bureau and regional management to plan and oversee the execution of all agency scaling and rope access projects and activities including but not limited to risk tree maintenance, scaling, statewide emergency response due to landslides and other naturally occurring events in State parks, the inspection and monitoring of slope erosion in areas of concern for patron and employee safety, slope stabilization, management of invasive species, reintroduction of endangered or at risk native species, repair of equipment and features only accessible by rope, and clearing of viewsheds.

Plans and oversees annual Introductory and Advanced Rope Access Training, keeping current on latest advances in equipment and techniques to include in trainings.

Plans and oversees annual rope access training, recertifications, and physical fitness exams for all Rope Access Specialists and seasonal Scalers.

Evaluates the skill level of seasonal Scalers and Rope Access Specialists using the Rope Access Specialist Evaluation Report.

Oversees recruiting, interviewing, testing, and hiring of Scalers and Rope Access Specialists, as needed.

Coordinates and participates in the performance of inspections of rope access sites to ensure the safety and integrity of these locations (via drone or in person).

Oversees and participates in operation of drones for monitoring of slope stability and environmental information gathering.

Coordinates with Division of Environmental Stewardship & Planning (DESP) staff to train Rope Access Specialists and Scalers in the identification and management of invasive and endangered species in rope access locations, including reintroducing endangered species, mitigating and removing invasive species, and providing documentation to DESP staff of the same.

Tracks Pesticide Applicator Licenses and training for Rope Access Specialists to ensure ability to continue management of invasive plant species.

Monitors rope hours and track SPRAT certifications for Rope Access Specialists.

Ensures that Rope Access Specialists, seasonal Scalers, spotters, and rope handlers are trained in and adhere to all safety procedures.

Manages rope access, scaling, and other equipment inventories and purchase requests for the Rope Access Program.

Schedules and ensures Rope Access Specialists and Scalers participate in training

required to perform the duties of their position including but not limited to Rope Access Training, Pesticide Apprentice Training, Aerial Lift Training, UTV Training, Trailer Tie Down & Load Securement Training, Rock Fall Hazard Assessment Training, Risk Tree Hazard Assessment Training, Pruning & Woodchipper Training, and Skid Steer Training.

Supervises lower-level Rope Access Specialists.

Minimum Qualifications

Rope Access Specialist 1

Non-Competitive: six years of experience in two or more of the following areas:

- High-angle work,
- Working at heights,
- Technical rescue support,
- Arboriculture and hazard tree mitigation,
- Construction, inspection, or maintenance in hazardous environments, or
- Safety, fall protection, or rescue roles.

Two of those years of experience must include working in a rope access program; and possession of Level 1 SPRAT Certification, completed Pesticide Apprentice Training, Chainsaw Training (Game of Logging S212 or equivalent) certification, and must provide proof of having obtained at least 500 on-rope hours. Within the one-year probationary period, must complete Rock Fall Hazard Assessment training, Risk Tree Hazard Assessment training, Pruning training, Woodchipper training, Skid Steer training, Aerial Lift training, UTV training, Trailer tie-down and load securement training.

Rope Access Specialist 2

Non-Competitive: seven years of experience in two or more of the following areas:

- High-angle work,
- Working at heights,
- Technical rescue support,
- Arboriculture and hazard tree mitigation,
- Construction, inspection, or maintenance in hazardous environments, or
- Safety, fall protection, or rescue roles.

Three of those years of experience must include working in a rope access program including training on advanced rope access techniques; and possession of a Level 2 SPRAT Certification (500 rope hours), OSHA 30 training certification, and current Pesticide Applicator License – 3A, Chainsaw Training (Game of Logging S212 or

equivalent) certification. Within the one-year probationary period, must complete Advanced Rope Access Training Techniques, Rock Fall Hazard Assessment training, Risk Tree Hazard Assessment training, Pruning training, Woodchipper training, Skid Steer training, Aerial Lift training, UTV training, Trailer tie-down and load securement training, and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Identification Training.

Rope Access Specialist 3

Non-Competitive: eight years of experience in two of the areas mentioned for the Rope Access Specialists 1 and 2 above, four of those years of experience must include working in a Rope Access Program; one year of this experience must also include assisting in the management of Rope Access projects; proof of having obtained at least 500 on-rope hours; and possession of Level 3 SPRAT Certification; possession of OSHA 30 training certification, current Pesticide Applicator License – 3A, Chainsaw Training (Game of Logging S212 or equivalent) certification, and Wilderness First Aid certification, and must provide proof of having obtained at least 500 on-rope hours.

Note: Classification Standards illustrate the nature, extent, and scope of duties and responsibilities of the classes they describe. Standards cannot and do not include all the work that might be appropriately performed by a class. The minimum qualifications above are those required for appointment at the time the Classification Standard was written. Please contact the Division of Staffing Services for current information on minimum requirements for appointment or examination.

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