



CHALLENGE COURSES • CANOPY ZIPLINES • AERIAL PARKS

PRCA 16th Annual International Conference

Holiday Inn Tampa Westshore

700 North Westshore Blvd.
Tampa, Florida 33609
(813) 289-8200

March 7-10, 2019

Welcome!

The PRCA is excited to expand on the conference this year by offering additional types of offerings under our TRACK system of workshops, clustering them into categories of Certification, Educational, Technical, Professional Meetings, and Social functions. Our hopes are that this helps facilitate your search for workshop more specific to your needs and learning. Additionally, we have strived to schedule workshops for a variety of experience levels from students and those seeking jobs in the profession to the industry expert looking for an additional technical golden nugget to add to their knowledge base. We are certain the conference has something to offer EVERYONE!

Venue – Holiday Inn Tampa Westshore:

The conference will be hosted at the Holiday Inn Tampa Westshore. This is a beautiful location and has much to offer. Comfortable rooms, FREE WiFi, kids under 18 stay and eat free with parents, free self and valet parking, business center, heated outdoor pool, fitness center, and much more!

The convenience of the vibrant Westshore market is right out the front door. Tampa's best shopping and entertainment district is well within the complimentary transportation zone of three miles; most is within walking distance. You can enjoy either International Plaza or Westshore Plaza for all of your shopping needs. The close proximity of Tampa International Airport as well as the Tampa cruise port are also bonuses! The venue is near many gulf beaches, Lowry Park Zoo, Downtown Museums, Spring Training, Busch Gardens, Florida Aquarium, and Raymond James Stadium.

Serving Challenge & Ropes Courses • Canopy & Zipline Tours • Aerial Adventure Parks

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Conference SPONSORS:

The PRCA would like to also officially acknowledge and thank our sponsors for the conference. We encourage all to check out their booths, websites, and support them with your business!





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Workshop Descriptions:

CERTIFICATION TRACK

Qualified Instructors Certification Workshop

The Qualified Instructor Certification Program was created by the PRCA to address the growing North American and International regulatory requirements, the general desire to increase the professionalism of our industry and to give all stakeholders, in-house or vendors, the opportunity to offer quality, standardized training to their employees. This program issues certifications to industry professionals, in all areas of the industry, who have the knowledge, expertise and experience to perform quality employee training.

PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS TRACK

PRCA Annual Members Meeting

As mandated by the PRCA By-laws, an annual Membership Meeting is to be held with active membership of the association. This is a closed meeting of active and direct members only. Sit in's or proxy votes are not permitted. A update of Board and association activities for the past year will be presented and future initiatives.

PRCA Annual Board Meeting

As mandated by the PRCA By-laws, an annual Board of Directors Meeting is to be held, open to active membership of the association. Active members have speaking privileges and may pose questions to the Board. Non-members are welcome to attend yet will not be recognized for questions or comments.

Stakeholders Meeting regarding ASTM F2959 Exclusion Meeting

A harmonization task group consisting of representatives of PRCA, ACCT and ASTM has been formed to compare and possibly harmonize the three existing standards.

Mike Barker of the PRCA is heading a F2959 task group which will work on the existing ASTM F2959 scope and exclusions language. The purpose of this task



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group is to clarify the standard scope and specifically exclusion language to allow these exclusions to continue for the parties for which they were originally intended. The task group will endeavor to come up with new language to be balloted by the F 2959 Sub-committee and F24 Committee before October 2019; thus, protecting our industry's interests and negating the need for the original exclusions removal ballot to be brought back to the table in the future. Open meeting. Conference fees waived for those wishing to attend.

If your association would like to have a representative work with this task group please have them contact Mike Barker directly at climb1guide@gmail.com or (203) 464-9784.

ANSI/PRCA Consensus Group Meeting – PRCA/ANS Reaffirmation

This professional meeting will be a Face-to-Face meeting of the PRCA as Secretariat, Consensus Body. A review of the ANSI/PRCA Standards will be conducted and a review of the Reaffirmation Process of the standard for another five year term. Open meeting. Conference fees waived for those wishing to attend.

TECHINCAL TRACK

Tree Umph! Local Aerial Adventure Course Tour

A local favorite in the Tampa region, Tree Umph! is an Aerial Adventure Park just about an hour drive from the conference. Interested parties may sign up to Meet & Greet with the owners, tour the facilities, and participate in a Q&A session with a course manager. Operations, staff training, and maintenance are areas of workshop focus. Space is limited and sign up will be done at the conference. (NOTE: transportation not provided; car-pooling encouraged)

Tree Umph!
21805 E SR 70
Bradenton, FL 34202
www.TreeUMPH.com



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EAD's – A call to Fail Safe Braking

This presentation was part of two part series and goes in depth on the topic of secondary zip line brakes and how to meet current EN/ASTM standards with new and existing zip lines. As we all strive to harmonize and refine standards this information is very relevant, and while ASTM by no means has perfect answers many courses are bound by them, which is a tough and confusing place to be. Discussions of G-Loads, different systems, user controlled and automated options are all part of this.

Zip Line Brakes – Arresting Energy

This was the first part of the preceding workshop and is very technical in its analysis of zip line rider motion, what affects it (both internal and external factors to the zip system) and what that means when we design a brake system. This was focused on professional installers and designers, but anyone who builds or does maintenance of a line can benefit. This workshop is fairly interactive and gives people a chance to analyze their own lines and figure out what they need to be aware of based on their location and unique environmental factors. Once all of this is established we move into how braking systems can be designed or modified to effectively account for such complicated situations.

4:1 Rescue Systems

Beyond Pros & Cons of using 4:1 systems as a rescue tool.

This hands-on workshop will feature *Fiddle blocks and other systems*; “One and Done” Rescue for challenge courses. This rescue system will be an excellent example of risk mitigation in practice. New Fiddle block Prototype progress will also be on display. Discussion on the evolution from previous techniques, (“cut away”), and why those are NOT preferred any longer. This will be an outdoor, interactive workshop, The workshop shall familiarize folks w/ several different kits, partnered w/ a variety of ropes, understanding advantages and disadvantages of gear and systems, with time for Q&A's. Feel free to bring your own system and equipment for review!



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Zip Line Testing

In this presentation we walk through a day of zip line testing. Head Rush has spent the last 5+ years testing zip line brakes, and a product of that has been a refinement of efficient zip line testing. We are able to run 100+ full unmanned ride cycles with full data collection daily in some hard to access places. This is meant to give anyone who needs to commission or analyze a zip line a good tool kit to make their job easier, time more effective, and documentation complete.

Knots / Gear / Tech Pro's & Con's

This workshop will explore the evolution of technical equipment over the years as it relates to ropes challenge course, zip line tours, and aerial adventure parks. The Pro's and Con's of various equipment types will be discussed and debate will circle around the principles of safety, machine verses human, and "Less is More." Explore how technology is helping to advance our industry or yet possibly creating new risk factors or employee training initiatives. This will be a hands-on, interactive workshop with various pieces of equipment on hand to examine. Bring your old gear and try to stump the experts in the room.

Inspectors Workshop - Inspections! What to Look for and Documentation

Do you ever wonder what an inspector looks at when inspecting your course? As an inspector, do you ever wonder if you are missing something during the inspection? Beyond the basics of cable and clamp inspections, this Inspectors Workshop will delve into deeper topics of engineering, tensions, manufacture specifications, utility pole treatments and specifications, and the process of a detailed custom inspection. Discuss items that should and shouldn't be documented and what a final report should include.



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EDUCATIONAL TRACK

Industry Roundtable Q & A – Trends – Jobs

This workshop will be an open discussion surrounding current trends, shifts in the industry buyers, employee skills and compensation, hiring, and Q&A about the next evolutions of the industry.

Insurance 101 by Hibbs Hallmark

In an ever changing industry, this workshop is an introduction and review into the world of insurance. A leading insurance expert will be covering the concepts and requirements of General Liability, Operations, Builder, Workers Compensation, coverage limits, new coverage requirements, and other insurance needs that address the industry of ropes challenge courses, aerial adventure parks and zip line tours.

Land Leases & Agreements

Many programs today are starting businesses on leased land rather than conventionally “owned” land. This process of leasing property from private individuals, municipalities, state or federal authorities comes with a new level of appreciation and documentation. The presenter will share from their extensive experience in land leasing and cover a couple actual leases to explore topics and concerns which should be reviewed in concert with your attorney.

Surviving Death at Camp

While serving as an Executive Director of a camp in Fairfield PA, a camper was killed as a result of an automobile accident returning from a wilderness canoe trip in Canada. While this was an automobile accident, many lessons learned relate to the ropes course industry. This workshop will help folks be better prepared for a catastrophic accident, speak to the “standards of the industry” to which you will be measured, following your policies, document everything, the role of your insurance agent, and most importantly the psychological impact on campers, staff, and YOU!



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Introducing Service Animals with Groups

A Service Animal is more than just a red vest. How can they be integrated into use for adventure programs? In the ever changing world of Service Animals and the more recent controversy over their use in public facilities, training, certification and travel, this workshop will cover the definitions of a Service Animal, what it takes to train and operate with a Service Animal under current law, and the implementation of Service Animal use with challenge courses and zip line tours. A Service Animal will be present at this workshop.

Top10 Group Initiatives

Everyone has their favorite group initiatives that build community. Come learn new variations on old standbys and share your variations. Pick up a new processing tool or share yours. This is an interactive, participatory session to help dust off your bag of tricks and hopefully add a new twist to help keep your group initiatives fresh and inviting. Remember: participants get excited about what you get excited about. Learn several new variations on favorite group initiatives. Learn new ways to process initiatives. Have fun and participate in group initiatives. Provide resources of companies who are constantly updating initiatives

Decision Making Styles (DMS): Communication Group Assessment

This workshop will explore experiential teambuilding initiatives while integrating the DMS instrument. The DMS is a short survey which provides cursory information on an individuals' preferences while making decisions. The DMS looks at how you 'process information' gathered in regards to formulating decisions and trends of interaction with others. This workshop will administer the DMS workbook and deliver results to attendees. Results will be discussed as it explores team dynamics of communication. The DMS can be designed into experiential education initiatives for more purposeful learnings.



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Tee Shirt / Merchandise SWAP / Marketing – What works!

Marketing 101 has changed over the years thanks to the invention of the smart phone, social media, and other digital platforms. Come discuss and share industry practices of the moment and discuss what works and doesn't work in today's savvy media market. A look at rack cards, websites, Facebook pages, and other creative ways to market your program! Have a spare tee shirt from your program, bring a couple to swap out with others for their shirts.

Facilitation: The Art of letting others get your way

Challenge course staff wear many "hats" and must learn to know when to shift roles and lingo to best engage the participants. Context is key in this, knowing group demographics, goals and desired program is a great place to start. Join in on a facilitation discussion with "new" eyes as we explore the use of techniques and perspectives from related (or not) fields to help us be more "nimble" in changing hats to best lead our participants to greater heights. This workshop is geared primarily toward educational focused team building groups.

Integrating Environmental Education with Zip Line Tours

After an industry push towards Pay for Play programming for the past 20 years, this workshop demonstrates environmental education curriculums that are integrated with current Pay for Plays services such as Zip Line and Aerial Adventure Tours. Come see how the industry is beginning to redefine itself and coming full circle again with its roots, all while promoting new "green" practices, math, and science agendas.

Zip Away TV – The Making of a Reality TV Show

The workshop will discuss the process in creating a reality television show, from idea to finished product. Discussion will be addressed towards idea, show concept, the pitch, sizzle reels, marketability, camera shoots, editing, waivers, insurance, and time buy programming. Workshop will be recorded for the show!



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Presenter Descriptions:

Tree Umph!, took a 14-acre piece of land that is approximately the size of 10 football fields and filled it with some of the most daring, innovative adventure games you'll find anywhere outside your own imagination. Suspended logs? Check. Wobbly footbridges? You bet. Zip lines? Absolutely! By the time you're done taking on these challenges, an incredible transformation of mind and body will have taken place. Let's do this!

Luke Winkler, Product Manager at Head Rush Technologies. Head Rush has always valued education, but recently we have been making a dedicated effort to share all that we have learned with others in the industry. Having tens of thousands of devices in use worldwide has given us great opportunity to gain a well rounded view of the adventure, zip, and climbing industries.

Mike Barker, is the Executive Director and COO of Corporate Challenge Inc d/b/a Adventure Más East & West, and current President of the PRCA Board of Directors. Mike has been involved in the industry since 1975; building, training inspecting, and facilitating. Mike served as the principal editor of the current ANSI/PRCA American National Safety Standards. Due to a previous law enforcement career Mike has served as an expert witness in numerous industry accident cases, and has assisted law enforcement and OSHA in investigating fall related accidents.

Tom Andrews, is the principal behind Pro Image Adventures aka Pro Image & Associates, LLC since 1986. He has been an adjunct professor at Taylor University, and an instructor at MIT and Wabash College. He and his staff have designed, built, and inspected more than 1000 challenge courses, and offer legendary facilitator certification training programs all around the country.

Gus Denzik, is a ropes course professional and has been involved in the industry since 1985. He was the owner of ACCT vendor member ERi until he and his wife decided to slow down and raise their 3 sons (all have become US Marines) at Butler Springs Christian Camp. He has continued to build/train/inspect/facilitate challenge courses.



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Robert Monaghan, is a Certified Insurance Counselor and serves as President of Hibbs Hallmark & Company in Tyler TX. Robert has been involved insuring operators in the aerial adventure and team building world for the past 25 years. Robert manages one of the nations largest insurance programs for this industry.

Peter Hatlestad, has been involved in the challenge course industry for over 30 years getting his start in wilderness programming. Peter received his MS ED in Recreation from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He is currently the Snake Road Adventure Center Program Director at Covenant Harbor Bible Camp in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin where he has been leading challenge course and outdoor education programs for 23 years. Peter also has been a PRCA Qualified Instructor Certification for two years and a current PRCA board member.

Steve Gustafson, is the principle owner of EBL Zip Lines and over 35 years experience. He is co-founder of the PRCA, and current Board Member of the PRCA and past Board of Trustees Member with the Wilderness Education Association (WEA). His firm is an Accredited Vendor delivering Zip Line and Aerial Adventure Park services, all while investing and owner their own corporate zip line tour locations. He also serves as Producer of the Reality TV show Zip Away, and Executive Producer for the shows musical scores and soundtracks.

Curt Rowland, has been in church camping all his career. He has a Master of Theology from Bethany Seminary and has been an ordained minister since 1989. He has served 14 years as a Camp Director at Camp Eder and 17 years as a program director at the YMCA of the Ozarks and at Camp Alexander Mack. He has served multiple times on the steering committee for the Outdoor Ministry Association for the Church of the Brethren. Recently retired from camp, he now owns his own handyman business and works part time with a challenge course vendor.

Anka Gustafson, is a German dog breed called a Hovawart. She is a medium to large size dog breed dating back to the Thirteenth century and is estimated to be of only 1 in about 200 in the entire United States. The name of the breed means "an estate guard dog", which is the original use for the breed. The breed originated in the Black Forest region and was first described in text and paintings in medieval times. My Human has been training me for Search and Rescue,



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along with work in hospitals and special needs populations on zip line and aerial adventure courses. “Anka” is German, meaning graceful.

Service Crew

New this year, the PRCA is starting a Service Crew Program where volunteers and students can work up to 15 hours on conference related support efforts and earn a free conference registration! This is a great way to save money, support your association, attend some great workshops, defining your skills for a current or future employment. Interested persons may contact Service Crew Coordinator [Curt Rowland <canoecurt@gmail.com>](mailto:canoecurt@gmail.com) to sign up for service. Help at the registrations table, assist with workshop set up and introductions, help with other conference related logistics, assist the vendors, etc. What a great way to get involved!

Socials - Appetizers / Hors d'oeuvres

Evening Social Gatherings with Appetizers / Hors d'oeuvres

All are invited to attend the Social Gatherings as a mixer for all to enjoy! Come decompress from the days workshops!. Warm and cold appetizers and Hors d'oeuvres will be available to nourish your bellies as well as conversation! (while supplies last)

Each evening between 5pm – 6pm, a social hour will be hosted for all conference attendees to participate and enjoy. Come relax after a good day of workshops and get some FREE FOOD!

Thursday: Popcorn Machine with gourmet toppings, Iced Tea and Lemonade. – Hosted by the **PRCA**

Friday: Heavy finger foods such as mini sandwiches, wings, veggie / fruit trays, and salty / crunchy snacks. - Hosted by **EBL Zip Lines**

Saturday: Variety of Pizza options and soda options. – Hosted by **Adventure Mas**

Saturday Evening : An evening on the water! A boat ride on the water around Tampa (limited space available) – Hosted by **Pro Image Adventures**

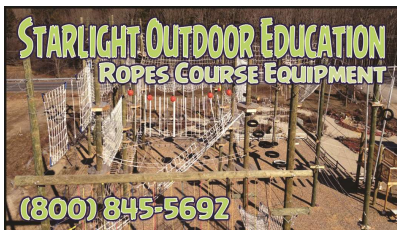


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SILENT AUCTION

A crowd favorite from past conferences, we are bringing back the Silent Auction! Here is your chance to get some new, top of the line gear and accessories all while supporting the PRCA! Petzl ropes, GriGri 2's, Robertson Harnesses. CMI Zip Line Trollies are just some of the big ticket items that will be up for auction! Be sure to check it out and place your bid.

Again, Thank You to our Sponsors and their Donations !



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PRCA Membership

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Receive a licensed electronic PDF copy of the ANSI 1.0-.3-2014 ANSI designated American National Safety Standards for Challenge Courses (which covers challenge courses, aerial adventure parks, canopy tours and zip line tours/courses) (electronic version; Adobe PDF and agree to abide by the PRCA LICENSE AGREEMENT)
- Discounts to PRCA sponsored events & conferences
- Be eligible to participate in the PRCA Master Policy for general liability coverage
- Reviewed Vendors may participate in the PRCA Commercial General Liability coverage program
- Online video resources of select past conference workshops, and throw back training video segments on harness fitting, rope coiling, construction practices, etc.
- Receive copies of the PRCA Newsletter: "The Connection"
- Access to the Members Only area for more downloads
- Receive industry alerts and notifications from manufacturers
- Contribute to a sharing community
- Network with other professionals in the industry
- Eligible to participate on working committees
- Eligible to serve on the Board of Directors

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| Individual Membership | \$85 / annually w/1 – one year end user license |
| Organizational Members | \$250 / annually w/4 - one year end user license |
| Accredited Vendors | \$500 / annually w/5 - one year end user license |
| Corporate Sponsors | \$750 / annually and website / conference |
| Purchase ANSI Standards Only | \$125 with one year end user license |



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About the PRCA:

Founded in 2003, the Professional Ropes Course Association (PRCA) became the first industry association to achieve the ANSI Accredited Standards Developer status in 2005. On March 3, 2014, ANSI designated the **ANSI/PRCA 1.0-.3 2014 as the sole ANSI American National SAFETY Standard (ANS) for Challenge Courses, Ziplines, and Aerial Adventure Parks**. This standard covers both participants and employees. Accordingly, the ANSI Essential Requirements outline that no other conflicting or duplicating ANS should be allowed.

The mission of the PRCA is to develop end-user applicable standards, documents, and to define, document and outline the construction / operational practices for the Ropes Challenge Course, Zipline, and Aerial Adventure Parks industry. The documents of the PRCA may be used for education regarding course evaluations, insurance criteria, in-house training, inspections, installations, operations, and professional development to name a few.

Further, in the designated American National Safety Standard ANSI 1.0-.3-2014, other industry standards have been reviewed and applicable portions have been adopted specifically for the use of the ropes challenge course industry; e.g. CEN standards, AS/NZ Standards, previous PRCA and ACCT standards, Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Cordage Institute (CI). These standards are for educational use, construction resource for properly trained professionals, and to provide a venue for collaboration among challenge course practitioners.

The PRCA is an industry association where the membership has direct voting rights on association matters, void of the dominance by vendor control or exclusion. It is a non-profit association comprised of a board of directors, peer reviewed vendors, organizational members, and individual members. Within the ropes challenge course industry, there has been a need for a standards document that was reflective of a democratic process. This was the purpose behind becoming an ANSI Accredited Standards Developer.