



MSA Tree Climbing Championship

2019 Competitor Information

May 3-5, 2019
Round Lake Park
Eden Prairie, MN

2019 MSA TCC Presented By:



Welcome to the 2019 MSA Tree Climbing Championship!

In order to more fully enjoy your experience at the TCC, **please read through this and all other accompanying documents and links**. If you have any questions please be sure to contact the MSA TCC Committee, we are here to help. We want you to...

...be safe, have fun, expand your network, and learn something new!

THE COMPETITION

Climbers will compete in five preliminary events on Saturday to qualify as one of the top contestants to earn the right to advance to the championship round – the Masters' Challenge. The preliminary events include **Ascent Event, Belayed Speed Climb, Aerial Rescue, Work Climb** and **Throwline**. Those who have accumulated the highest combined point totals for the five preliminary events advance to the Masters' Challenge on Sunday.

First-place winners of the Masters' Challenge for both the men's and women's divisions will each receive an [ArborMaster® Climbing Prize Package](#) and the opportunity to represent MSA at the [2019 ITCC](#), August 9-11, in Knoxville, TN.

Second-place winners will represent MSA at the 2019 NATCC (location TBD).

REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY

All completing climbers must:

- **Register online by Friday, April 19.** Onsite registration will not be accepted!
- Attend the MANDATORY event walk through and gear inspection on **Friday, May 3 at 3:30 PM**. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- **Be a current member of MSA at the time of registration and competition.** If you are not currently a member, registration + membership pricing is available at checkout (Not sure of your current membership status? [Login to your ISA account](#) or [email MSA](#) to check).
- Out-of-state climbers may participate in all preliminary events and are eligible to place in these events. Only in-state climbers (those who live, or primarily work in, Minnesota. Employer must be verified.) can advance to the Masters' Challenge.

MSA TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP POLICY

1. To compete in the annual Minnesota Society of Arboriculture (MSA) TCC, a climber must be a current MSA member at the time of the competition.
2. To be a gender champion, competitors must compete in all preliminary events and Masters' Challenge as well as stay for the entirety of the Masters' Challenge event through the award ceremony. Gender Champions may be subject to Appendix 4 of International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) rules.
3. Champions are strongly encouraged to volunteer for a minimum of (1) chapter event within the championship year in order to promote, teach, and share their experiences with other members.
4. Masters' Challenge champions (first place male, first place female) will be eligible as Representative Competitors for the MSA chapter at the ITCC. Runners up of the Masters' Challenge (second place male, second place female) will be eligible as Representative Competitors for MSA at the North American Tree Climbing Championship (NATCC). If a qualifying climber is not able to attend ITCC or NATCC, the runner up will be offered the spot. All eligible climber names based on NATCC's current guidelines will be sent to ISA as approved guest climbers for NATCC.
5. To compete in ITCC and NATCC, MSA Representative Competitors must be a current member of ISA in good standing.
6. MSA will pay the entry fee for the first-place male and female winners to compete at the ITCC, as well as the NATCC entry fee for the male and female second place winners.
7. A spending cap for ITCC expenses to be \$1000.00 for each competitor, male and female. This will cover travel to and from the competition host city and lodging while at the competition.
8. A spending cap for NATCC expenses to be \$500.00 for each Representative Competitor, male and female. This will cover travel to and from the competition host city and lodging while at the competition.
9. International competitions that require expenses to exceed the spending limit must have MSA Executive Committee approval. With a proposed limit to be no more than \$2000.00 for each male and female competitor.
10. All expenses submitted for reimbursement must follow MSA's reimbursement policy.

2019 VENUE

Round Lake Park

16691 Valley View Rd, Eden Prairie, MN 55346 ([Map](#))

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 3

- 3:00 pm** **Check-in begins for Competitors**
(Please do not arrive earlier than 3:00 pm and stay clear of event set-up)
- 3:30 pm - 8:00 pm** **Safety Meeting, Event Walk Through, Gear Inspection**
*****Mandatory for all competitors – No exceptions!*****

SATURDAY, MAY 4

- 6:00 am - 7:30 am** **Competitor Check-in**
Light breakfast provided
- 7:30 am Competitors prestage
- 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Competition
Lunch provided
- 9:00 am – 12:00 pm* *City of Eden Prairie Arbor Day Celebration Activities*
- 5:30 pm Social and Awards Ceremony
Location: Eden Prairie Senior Center
8950 Eden Prairie Rd, Eden Prairie, MN 55347 ([map](#))

SUNDAY, MAY 5

- 8:30 am* Masters' Challenge Competitor check-in
Light breakfast provided
- 10:00 am* Masters' Challenge
Alternate between competitors: Male, Female, Male, Female, etc.

*Check-in and starting times subject to change depending on number of Masters' Challenge competitors

ASCENT EVENT AT MSA TCC 2019

Due to logistics and potential upcoming changes to the ISA Ascent Event rules and format, MSA TCC 2019 will run a modified/abbreviated Ascent Event.

This event will consist only of the “Ascent” portion. “Setup” and “Changeover” will not be included in the scored/timed stages of the event. In other words: this year’s Ascent Event at MNTCC will run similarly to the Foot Lock event. However, competitors will ascend with a system of their choosing (provided the system meets ITCC rules requirements).

Ascent Event will run as follows:

1. Technicians will install competitor ropes as per Ascent Event rules
2. Competitor installs ascent system onto ropes
3. Head Judge/Tech verifies system and gives the all clear
4. Competitor’s time starts when their second foot leaves the ground
5. Time stops when competitor rings the finishing bell
6. The entire assembly; competitor, ropes and system are lowered to the ground by belay techs. No need to changeover.

Any questions? Please contact the MNTCC committee or Taylor Hamel taylor@dmmwales.com

GEAR NOTES

The following statements offer additional clarification for your benefit:

- Gear inspection will take place immediately following the event walkthrough on Friday.
- Only check the items you wish to use for the five preliminary events (throwlines do not need to be inspected). Those who qualify for the Master’s Challenge will have the opportunity to check further equipment.
- Fill out your gear inspection forms with as much information as possible prior to Friday. This will make you happy, the technicians happy, and make the process flow more quickly.
- Please thoroughly inspect and research your gear well in advance of the TCC weekend. This will give you time to remedy any issues or purchase replacements if necessary.
- You may use manufacturer-specified replacement parts ONLY. We will not accept modified equipment. (e.g. harness bridges)
- If you have ANY doubts about the acceptability of your equipment, replace it prior to Friday or bring extras in the event it does not pass inspection.

- If you have ANY doubts about the acceptability of a certain technique, knot, hitch, configuration, etc. please contact the TCC Committee prior to gear check on Friday. Unorthodox and/or unfamiliar configurations may be disallowed. Be prepared with alternatives.
- DO NOT USE GRAPHITE POWDER IN YOUR CARABINERS! Graphite builds up in the gate mechanism and creates a sticky paste that is very difficult to remove. You will be a happier person if you remove graphite from your life. Please refer to the "Inspection and Maintenance of ... Carabiner Gate Mechanisms" link below.
- We will be enforcing manufacturer's stated service life on textiles (harnesses, ropes, hitch cord, etc). Please consult your user instructions, seek info on manufacturer's websites, ask friends... ask us! (e.g. the treeMOTION harness has a maximum lifespan of 8 years from date of manufacture. However, it must be removed from service 5 years from date of first use. Petzl Sequoia has a lifespan of 10 years from date of manufacture with no stated lifespan from first use.) There are many other examples... please research for yourself. We will do our best to be reasonable and flexible regarding this, but if your gear is over the stated timeline, and looks rough and worn, we will most likely not allow it in the TCC.
- A minimum of 3 wrap (6 coil) prusik, or equivalent, is required for foot locking or inline anchors (Aerial Rescue, Master's Challenge).
- A minimum of 3 wraps is required at the top of a V.T. style friction hitch. You must demonstrate the proper function of all hitches and rope grabs.
- Friction hitches that move along a rope while supporting the climber must be manufactured of heat-resistant material. Pure Polyester hitch cord such as Tenex will not be allowed as friction hitch cord. An exception to this would be footlock prusiks.
- Snap hooks on climbing lines and positioning lanyards are generally disallowed at TCC's. Please review the "Advisory" link for more information.
- Knots in cordage must have tail lengths at least 5 times the diameter of the rope. For example: If you are tying scaffold knots (double fisherman's) in 8mm hitch cord, the tails must be 40mm long. Knots in 1/2" rope require 2 1/2" tails. Dig it?

SRT Work Positioning:

ISA currently allows only the following 6 devices for Stationary Rope Work Positioning:

(as of Dec 19, 2018)

- Petzl Rig
- Petzl I'D
- ISC Rope Wrench RP280
- ISC D4
- ISC D5
- Taz Lov2

Work Climb:

- Minimum rope length for work climb is generally 120' (60' for stationary rope techniques). However, this length may increase based on the trees available. Be prepared with a longer rope if necessary.
- An approved stopper knot is required at the end of all climbing lines. A splice may also be acceptable as a stopper.

Aerial Rescue:

- Competitors are not allowed to place any equipment above the dummy's friction hitch for the purpose of releasing the hitch. You must manually manipulate the hitch.
- An approved stopper knot is required at the end of all climbing lines. A splice may also be acceptable as a stopper.

HELPFUL LINKS:

Rules:

<https://www.itcc-isa.com/Portals/0/Docs/ITCC-RuleBook-current.pdf>

Score Sheets:

https://www.itcc-isa.com/Portals/0/Docs/2018Scoresheets_LTR.pdf

Scoring Quick Reference Guide:

https://www.itcc-isa.com/Portals/0/Docs/2018QRG_LTR.pdf

Advisories:

<https://www.itcc-isa.com/rulesregulations/advisories>

Gear Check Guidelines:

<https://www.itcc-isa.com/rulesregulations/equipment/gearinspectionform>

Gear Check Form:

<https://www.itcc-isa.com/Portals/0/Docs/2018-ITCC-Gear-Check-Form.pdf>

Submission for Approval, Equipment, or Technique:

<https://www.itcc-isa.com/Submission-For-Approval>

Inspection and Maintenance of Carabiner Gate Mechanisms:

<https://dmmwales.com/DMMWales/media/Documents/inspection-maintenance-dmm-auto-lock-carabiner-gate-mechanisms.pdf>

2019 ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package

MSA is pleased to announce the 2019 ArborMaster Climbing Kit Prize Package for the MSATree Climbing Champion (TCC), held in conjunction with the chapter's 2019 Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) event.

This climbing kit is being offered to each chapter champion (both man and woman)! The package is intended to help equip the Minnesota chapter representative(s) for the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) Competition.

Each prize package includes:

- Buckingham's Tree Squeeze and a 150' Rope Bag
- Silky's GunFighter Curve 330mm
- OREGON® 's Tool Bag
- Samson's ArborMaster 150' Hawkeye Climbing Line with eye splice
- ArborMaster® - 50% savings for a 2-Day or 3-Day Hands-On Training Module

Sponsored by:

