

Passages Rock & River Master Program:

How It Works

What is it?

The Rock and River Master Program was created by Passages, from scratch, nearly 25 years ago and consists of **5 challenging Levels**. It encompasses everything we do at Passages Rock & River / Advance Camps. It includes kayaking, tying knots and everything in between. These 5 curriculums help our Counselors sequence their instruction in the most sensible, risk managed and supportive way. It gives our Campers the opportunity to **set goals** such as conquering the rappel **today**, finishing Level II **this week** or even achieving Level IV **by the end of next summer**. One aim of this program is to empower our Campers to compete with the program, not against each other. Another intent is to acknowledge the achievements of our Campers during their Camp sessions. Each Camper has the opportunity to determine what they deem as success. Lastly, a big-hairy-audacious goal of our Rock & River Program is to develop our **Campers of today** into the **Passages Counselors of tomorrow**.

How's it work?

- The Rock and River Master curriculums are **updated and improved** every year by our Staff to ensure our Campers get the best we can possibly offer.
- Throughout the week our Staff use the Rock and River Levels as a **template for instruction**. We do our best to group the Campers with other Campers who are striving to achieve the same R & R level (I, II, III, IV and V).
- On **Thursday afternoon** every Camper will sit down one-on-one with a Kayak Staff and Climbing Staff to informally check their progress. This is not a test. Rather, it's an indicator of how successful we were in effectively teaching the Rock & River Skills and Levels to our Campers.
- At **Friday morning check-in** every Camper will have the chance to catch-up on anything that they missed during the Thursday one-on-one with our Staff.
- At the conclusion of our Friday afternoon Parent's Day Ceremony we **award patches** to the Campers who have completed every item of their Rock and River Level. Campers who have made progress between Thursday and Friday can get their Rock & River sheet checked-off during the ceremony. You'll note that we do not announce who graduated from one Level to the next. What matters most to us is that each and every Camper is progressing at their own comfort level and speed towards the mastery of these mission-critical life skills and self-confidence.

Just So You Know:

- We strongly encourage all Campers to participate in the program but it is completely **voluntary**.
- We keep every **Camper's Rock & River Sheet** at the end of the week. Our returning Campers pick-up exactly where he or she left off from the previous summer or camp session.
- As your Camper progresses through the program, it will become progressively more challenging to achieve the next Level in a single week of Camp. It typically **takes one**

or two weeks to graduate from levels I and II. It will take multiple weeks to graduate from levels III through V.

- We **do not provide take-home study guides** – that kinda stuff is for school.
- Once your Camper has passed Level III in Kayaking or Climbing or both, they have met the requirements to attend our **Advance Day Camp**. Advance Day Camp is designed for campers to focus on the hard-core skill building necessary to reach levels IV and V and apply for a position on the Passages Staff.
- If you have any **questions or comments**, we would love to hear from you. **804-897-8283 x310.**