



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



We've compiled the most frequently asked questions to provide you with a short, simple guide to take you through the experience — from making the decision to go *over the edge* to the rappel. Of course, we know we can't answer them all, so if your question is not found here, feel free to contact your, or any, of the nonprofit representatives.

BENEFITTING:

W WILLIAMSPORT
AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION FOUNDATION



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
northcentral pa



GENERAL INFORMATION

What is Over the Edge Williamsport?

Over the Edge (OTE) is a signature fundraising event that sends participants rappelling down the side of the William Hepburn Highrise in downtown Williamsport. Not only is it a thrilling experience but it also raises money for three great causes: River Valley Regional YMCA, the Williamsport Area School District Education Foundation, and YWCA Northcentral PA.

Do I need to have rappelling or climbing experience to rappel?

Absolutely not! A highly trained and certified team will be on site the day of the event to show you everything you need to know. After checking in and being fitted for your gear, all participants will receive mandatory training and have the opportunity to practice using the gear.

What will training be like for those rappelling?

Each participant will be given a specific time for their arrival and rappel. When a participant arrives, he/she will be given training and will practice a simulated rappel to experience hanging in the harness and using the descender. Proper rappelling position, where to keep your feet and hands, and use of the radios that participants wear will be covered during their training session.

How long does the event take?

Registering, training, and rappelling will take approximately 1.5 hours to complete. The actual rappel will last about 10 minutes depending on the individual participant.

Who can participate?

There is no age limit, but participants need to weigh between 100 to 300 pounds for safety reasons. **For those under the age of 18, a legal guardian must sign a waiver and remain at the event during the rappel (at ground level).**





Can I participate if I have a disability?

This is an all-inclusive event, which means those with disabilities are able and encouraged to participate. For persons with disabilities, please be sure to contact your nonprofit representative and explain the nature of your disability at least 60 days in advance of the event so this information can be provided to the OTE staff to ensure they have the necessary equipment required for those rappelling with special needs.

How safe is this event?

As with everything, there are risks. It is important that during the training session you listen to your rappelling instructors and follow their directions.

Every OTE event is set up as an industrial work site and, as a result, is compliant with all federal and state OSHA Fall Protection Standards and OSHA Federal and State Laws. Further, policies and procedures adhere to the best practices identified by SPRAT. This counsel is a strict regulatory body that has regimented guidelines and safety protocols that far exceed the OSHA, workers compensation and state labor codes.

OTE has an impeccable safety record. All OTE sites have highly trained industrial rope specialists, all of which are IRATA or SPRAT certified. Each event site has a comprehensive Site Inspection & Safety Plan completed, and if every potential risk cannot be mitigated, then the site will simply not be approved by our Operations Manager.

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FUNDRAISING

How do I get started?

Simply visit our event website to register. You may choose to rappel for any of the three nonprofits, or all three. You also may choose to rappel as an individual or as part of a team. **All individuals, regardless of being on a team, must raise a minimum of \$1,000 to secure a rappel spot on the day of the event.** It costs \$75 to register, which will count towards your goal.

What if I do not raise the minimum \$1,000?

Depending on your nonprofit of choice, participants may be asked to fill out a Credit Card Guarantee Form to reserve their spot. Participants who fill out a Credit Card Guarantee Form will have an extra 30 days to continue to raise funds after the event. The form authorizes the nonprofits utilizing this method to charge the balance owed on October 23, 2022, so that the participant reaches the \$1,000 minimum. If you fail to raise the minimum requirement to rappel and do not fill out a Credit Card Guarantee Form, all donations will remain with the respective organization(s) for which you selected to support.

If I receive donations by check, where do I mail them?

Please mail all donations made by check to your respective nonprofit:

River Valley Regional YMCA
641 Walnut St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

WASD Education Foundation
2780 West Fourth St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

YWCA Northcentral PA
815 West Fourth St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Please be sure to include a note to advise the nonprofit staff that the money is being donated in participation with OTE and to whom to apply the funds. Please do not mail cash. If you receive a cash donation, please use a cashier's check to submit those funds or hand deliver them to your nonprofit representative.





How do I add offline donations to my online fundraising goal?

You'll have complete control of adding any offline donations on the backend of your fundraising page. In addition, your selected nonprofit staff will add any donations received in your name to your online fundraising page. Please make sure that your information is included when sending your donations.

Are donations tax deductible?

Yes. All donations are tax deductible. Each donor will receive a receipt for their donation.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

What should I wear?

Sneakers, light hikers, climbing shoes or footwear with a soft, light-colored sole are recommended. **No slippers, sandals, slip-on shoes, high heels, or steel-toe boots are allowed.** Wear long pants and a long sleeve shirt. Athletic pants, tights, and jeans are suitable. The harness goes around your legs, waist and shoulders, so it is best to avoid anything too bulky. Long hair must be tied back. Glasses will need to be secured with an eye-wear retainer to keep them from falling. You will be given a pair of gloves and a helmet to wear while you rappel.

Are costumes allowed?

Many people choose to wear costumes for their rappel. All costumes will need to meet the same standards as listed above. OTE reserves the right to approve or reject any costumes that do not meet the safety standards. If you have any questions about your costume, please email pictures of your costume to your nonprofit point-of-contact.





Can I bring my camera and/or phone?

For everyone's safety, we do not want any objects dropped over the side of the building. Therefore, you are not allowed to bring your phones or cameras to the roof. Family and friends are encouraged to take pictures from the landing zone area. Photographers will be present to ensure your experience is captured and made available on the nonprofits' social media channels.



Can friends and family watch me as I go over the edge?

Supporters are encouraged to attend the event and watch you rappel down the building from the ground level outside the Landing Zone. Unfortunately, **friends and family will not be allowed on the rooftop**, since only those with safety harnesses and anchors will be admitted.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

How do weather conditions affect the event?

Safety policies and procedures will be strictly enforced to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants. In the event of inclement weather, OTE technicians will initiate a weather-related delay. In the event of significant weather delays on event day, individuals unable to rappel will have the opportunity to rappel on an alternate rappel date, to be determined.



RAIN — Typically an event can continue to operate in rain. When rain is so heavy that participants lose vision or some other unsafe condition exists, OTE technicians will initiate a weather-related delay until rain eases enough to continue safely.



WIND — In the event of sustained winds of 25 mph, or gusts lasting 20 seconds at 25 mph, OTE technicians will initiate a weather-related delay. The event will continue once the weather conditions improve.



LIGHTNING — A weather-related delay will be initiated if lightning strikes are within 40 miles from the rappel site. The event will continue once the weather conditions improve.

