

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/29/2024 10:37:49 PM

First name: Gantt

Last name: Miller

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I love rock climbing. My children love rock climbing. My whole extended family loves rock climbing. For us, like John Muir, climbing is a way to commune with nature. Climbing is a spiritual journey. This past fall I took my foster-adopted 12-year-old daughter up Tenaya Peak in Tuolumne Meadows. Aubrie learned to climb outdoors in the wilderness using both sport and traditional settings with fixed anchors and with traditional anchors. For kid who came from a dangerous urban world of gun violence and drug abuse to confidently find herself and her self-worth by climbing a massive vertical sea of granite is testament to the purpose of preserving wildlands in the first place.

We need to have fixed anchors in the wilderness to make experiences like the one Aubrie had safe. Just as hikers need established trails so they don't trample ecosystems and fall off precipices, climbers need fixed anchors to guide and protect us. Responsible partnership between the American Safe Climbing Association and the United States Forest Service is the best path for saving lives and ensuring that climbers like me can continue to help kids like Aubrie become confident, healed, and contributing members of our society who respect and care for our natural world.