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First name: Joshua

Last name: Avilez

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I was pretty lonely and lost as a young adult after college. I was invited to try rock climbing and immediately fell in love with it. When I went sport climbing outside for the first time, the world made more sense. This sport, or hobby, connects us to the world we live in. As a novice climber, I was informed that to climb outside essentially you either boulder, sport climb, or trad-climb. I was told about the safety in sport climbing and about existing anchors at the climbing locations. This made climbing outside possible to a beginner like me. I was worried about the heights and safety, but knowing that the anchors existed gave me peace and motivation to go out and see these parks. I was taught about how these anchors have existed for decades and how they are maintained. I felt drawn to go visit parks more now to go see these preserved lands with the intent of adventure but also care and respect. Without these anchors, I don't think I would have been drawn to go outside. Now, I feel like I am a part of something greater. A community that loves the parks, wants to protect them, wants to explore these tall walls, wants to see what some people before them have seen. This is all thanks to existing policies that allow fixed anchors as an essential part of a climber's safety to prohibit them would not stop climbers, but endanger them and the history of American climbing.