

2025 Application Guide

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What is the Rock On Collective Mentorship Program?

The program structure includes climbing outings with your mentorship group, competency-developing workshops and courses, and social climbing events. Through peer-to-peer learning, we are looking to cultivate a space of belonging, respect and community where we engage with each other, the sport, and the land in a reciprocal way. See more details on our [website](#) and on our FAQ page.

How to use this guide

This guide will help you navigate the application process and shares a summary of the questions you can expect to answer to help you prepare to submit your application. We recommend reading over all of the application questions beforehand to prepare your thoughts.

What’s the application like?

Should you require accommodation to complete your application, please email programs@rockoncollective.com to arrange an alternate method - either a video submission or a phone call/Zoom chat to complete your application together.

The application asks questions about yourself and your interest in the program. Unfortunately you cannot save and come back to your application, so we recommend preparing answers in a word-document if you plan to write it over multiple sessions. We encourage openness, honesty and reflection on your personal experiences. The details you provide help us better understand your needs and facilitate a great match for you.

The application is divided into three sections and uses a variety of multiple choice, checkbox, short and long form written responses:

1. Basic personal info
2. Climbing experience, interest and approach
3. Logistics & availability

Section 1: Basic personal info

So we can connect with you further after you've submitted your application.

Preferred Name	Email	Date of Birth
Pronouns	Phone Number	City of Residence

- Did you apply for the 2024 Rock On Collective mentorship program?
- Have you attended any other ROC programming (community courses or community events)?
- Do you have a car or other way to get yourself to/from climbing meet-ups?

Your Interest in the Rock On Collective program

These questions help us learn about who is applying to the program.

- What interests you about the Rock On Collective (ROC) mentorship program?
- Please self-describe in regards to your racial and ethnic identity.
- Do you identify as a member of any of the following equity-deserving groups?
 -
 - 2 Spirit, Trans or Gender-diverse individual
 - Woman
 - 2SLGBTQIA+
 - Racialized identity (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour)
 - Indigenous or Métis identity

- Immigrant, refugee or newcomer to Canada
- Person with a disability
- Neurodiverse
- Low income
- Tell us a bit about yourself. Interest/background/anything else you'd like to share!
- Rock On Collective has a gender-inclusive focus and works with many people who identify outside of the gender binary (e.g. non-binary, gender queer, trans, etc.). Do you hold previous knowledge about gender-inclusive language (e.g. they/them, etc.) or gender diverse experiences?
- **Optional:** In one word or sentence, what is something you are passionate about?
- How did you hear about us?

Section 2: Climbing experience, interest and approach

This will help us place you in a mentorship group. This is the most text-heavy section of the application.

- How many years of climbing experience do you have? Indoor/outdoor?
Sport/bouldering/other?
- How often do you climb? Indoor/outdoor?
- What grades do you usually climb comfortably outdoors (top-rope and/or leading)?
- **Optional:** What climbing clinics, courses or certifications have you taken?
- **Optional:** What First Aid courses/certification have you taken?
- How comfortable do you feel with the following aspects of climbing outdoors?
 -
 - Climbing on top rope
 - Lead climbing
 - Trad climbing including placing cams/nuts
 - Setting up a top rope anchor
 - Cleaning a top rope anchor
 - Belaying on top rope
 - Belaying a lead climber incl. catching falls
 - Rappelling
 - Multi-pitch climbing

- Bouldering safety
- Do you have any specific goals for this climbing season? What are some skills that you would like to learn or develop? This doesn't have to be technical skills, but could include leadership/mental/social/other.
- What does safety and ethics mean to you in regards to climbing (and/or other outdoor environments)? How will you promote safety and ethics for yourself and others?
- What is important to you when being grouped with other mentors and mentees for you to feel safe and belonging? (*Ex. being grouped with people of similar experience level and/or identities, anything that makes you feel empowered.*)
- Describe how you plan to create a foundation of trust & create psychological and physical safety with your fellow mentees & mentors, both before you head out to climb and throughout the season.
- What type of mentorship configuration would you prefer?
 - One-on-one
 - Small group (2-3 mentees, 2 mentors)
 - Large group (4 mentees, 3 mentors)
 - Unsure/it doesn't matter
- **Optional:** If you participated in last year's program, please explain if you prefer to continue with the same mentorship group (mentors and/or mentees) if possible, or if you'd like to be with new participants.
- We will provide climbing courses with certified guides and events throughout the season. Which of the following interests you?
 - Outdoor ethics & ecology for climbers
 - Land stewardship & Indigenous perspectives
 - Intro to outdoor bouldering
 - Intro to rock climbing (mentees only)
 - Intro to lead climbing (mentees only)
 - Intro to trad climbing
 - Intro to multi-pitch systems (sport climbing)
 - Intro to Mindset for Climbers
 - Anchor building & cleaning
 - Rope rescue
 - Boulder development
 - Route maintenance and rebolting (mentors only)

- Non-climbing community gathering
- **Optional:** What access needs do you have and how may we help accommodate them? What type of support would you like to fully participate in this program?
- **Optional:** Do you foresee any challenges with taking on a role as mentee with ROC? This could be anything from safety-related worries, social aspects, time constraints or something else.
- **Optional:** Is there anything else you would like to share about your application?

Mentee specific questions

- What discipline(s) of climbing do you want to be mentored in?
 - Bouldering
 - Top roping
 - Sport lead climbing
 - Trad lead climbing
 - Multipitch sport climbing (intermediate skills required)
 - I'm new to the sport and unsure

Mentor specific questions

- What has motivated you to apply to ROC as a Mentor? What does mentorship mean to you?
- What discipline(s) of climbing do you feel comfortable to mentor in?
 - Bouldering
 - Top roping
 - Sport lead climbing
 - Trad lead climbing
 - Multipitch sport climbing
- What level of experience do you feel comfortable to mentor somebody in?
 - **Beginner:** Somebody who has never climbed before or started recently - working on getting comfortable with the gear, belaying and on the wall
 - **Outdoor beginner:** Somebody who has climbed indoors but never/not much outdoors
 - **Intermediate:** Someone who is moderately experienced in the sport, comfortable with gear/rope management/belaying and looking to advance certain aspects of their climbing
 - **Advanced:** Someone who is very experienced in the sport and are looking to push themselves climbing in difficult terrain

- Are you looking for additional leadership opportunities within the wider ROC mentorship program above and beyond your mentoring commitment? (Ex. running a knowledge-sharing workshop about a specific skill, facilitating a non-climbing gathering, etc.)

Section 3: Logistics & availability

- What does your availability/schedule typically look like throughout May-October?
- Any comments in regards to your availability in the previous question? For example, if you have a flexible or rotating schedule, or you will be away some parts of May-October, etc.
- Are you in need of renting gear for the season?
- This program aims to build a strong community and to have a positive impact for all its participants. This requires engagement and commitment by everyone involved. Therefore, we ask that all participants commit at least 1 outing per month with their mentorship group (May to October). This does not include optional instructional workshops or social climbs organized by Rock On Collective. Do you commit to this?
- Do you have any questions/comments about this program?
- Do you wish to receive newsletters from Rock On Collective?

Application FAQ

What information should I include?

We encourage honesty, vulnerability and specifics. All of the details you share on your application help us match you in the best group for you. We are honoured to be trusted with your stories, experiences and learnings, and while we encourage detail - we do our best to eliminate unconscious bias and review your application based on what you've shared and how you're able to benefit from this program. Your answers will be read by our Program Development Committee, which is a small group (3-5 people) who are committed to confidentiality. No information will be shared without your consent.

What happens after I've submitted my application?

Our Program Development Committee will read through all applications. Over the following 2 weeks we narrow down mentorship group structures and sizes based on

applicant preferences, and finalize who will be offered a spot in the program. We typically receive double the number of Mentee Applications compared to the number of Mentor applications, and unfortunately not everyone will receive a spot in the program.

Applications are reviewed on the following basis:

Mentees:

- Volunteer team capacity for program size.
- Number of Mentee applications compared to Mentor applications.
- Clarity on value of mentorship for the applicant.
- Ability to provide detail about personal values and expectations for the season.
- Demonstrated alignment with Rock On Collective's vision, commitments, and values.
- We prioritize registration from equity-deserving individuals who may hold additional intersections of identity or face barriers that influence access to climbing (such as race, class, gender, sexual orientation, disability, size, age, etc.).

Mentors:

- Volunteer team capacity for program size.
- Demonstrated ability to provide mentorship.
- Interest and excitement to share skills, knowledge and experiences with others to support their development in the chosen sport.
- Demonstrated ability to uphold the commitments of a mentor.
- Demonstrated alignment with Rock On Collective's vision, commitments, and values.
- We prioritize registration from equity-deserving individuals who may hold additional intersections of identity or face barriers that influence access to climbing (such as race, class, gender, sexual orientation, disability, size, age, etc.).

Who can I contact with questions?

Our team is here and ready for your questions about the program, what you can expect, or to help you navigate the application process. You can reach out to programs@rockoncollective.com with any questions.

THANK YOU for taking the time to submit your application - we look forward to reviewing it.