



Fixed Anchors/Bolting

Joshua Tree National Park is recognized as one of this country's premier national park units, and one of this park's many attractions is the sport of rock climbing. The popularity of rock climbing has exploded in the past decade necessitating management actions to protect the quality of the climbing experience and of the natural environment. This form requires the climber to consider the impacts of new bolts on the quality of existing climbing routes, natural and cultural resources, and the experience of other visitors. You will need this form if your potential route will be in designated wilderness or you plan to use a power drill in a non-wilderness area.

The bolting policy varies between wilderness, non-wilderness, anchor-free zones, and cultural sites:

Wilderness

(90% + of JTNP is designated Wilderness)

- Replacing bolts with a hand drill on already established routes is encouraged.
- Adding new hand-drilled bolts requires a permit.
- Power drilling is not permitted.

Please refer to the included Climbing and Bouldering Areas Map and also to www.nps.gov/jotr for a list of named wilderness/non-wilderness formations.

Non-Wilderness

- Replacing old bolts on already established routes is encouraged. Use the *Bolting Proposal Form* to request use of a power drill to replace bolts.
- Hand-drilling new routes does not require a permit.
However, the climbing community and the Park strongly recommend that you consider the local ethic and be familiar with the character of JT before permanently altering the rock and surrounding environment.
- Use of a power drill always requires a permit.

Anchor-Free Zones / Cultural Sites

- Bolting is prohibited in Anchor Free Zones.
As of 2014, the anchor free zone include, but are not limited to, the rocks surrounding the trail leading to Barking Dam, The Coxcomb Mountains, and the entire south side of the park. Please see map on website.
- Climbing and bouldering is not permitted within 50 feet of culturally sensitive sites such as rock art, pictographs, and petroglyphs.
Not all sites are signed or known. Please be respectful of closures and report potential new sites.

How to get a Permit

Forms are available at visitor centers, headquarters, entrance stations, and on the park's website.

- Complete the Bolting Proposal Form.
- Complete a Special Use Permit Request (no fee).
- Submit both forms to the Division of Science and Resource Stewardship at JTNP.

These procedures were established by the National Park Service in cooperation with the climbing community. Your participation in helping to maintain a quality park experience is appreciated.

What happens after my request is submitted?

Your bolting request will be reviewed by JTNP's Climbing Committee and Wilderness Steering Committee. These committees are comprised of representatives from the Cultural, Vegetation, Wildlife, Climbing, Administrative, and Law Enforcement Departments. When no conflicts are found, the permit will be forwarded to the superintendent for approval. This process can take up to 6 months*, because federal law requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. **Average time from submitted application to signed permit = 1 month.*

Bolting Proposal Form

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Describe your proposed route including the location of bolts or if replacing bolts describe which bolts will be replaced on the existing route. (Attach photos, maps, topos, and a copy of guidebook page)

topo of route	approach map
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What is your justification for this new route? If replacing bolts, what is your justification?

Formation name: _____ GPS/UTM/map coordinates: _____

Name of closest route: _____

Have you climbed the proposed route? yes no

How many bolts would be installed/replaced? _____

Will the descent be a: Walk-off Existing rappel anchor New bolted anchor

Will a belay anchor be installed? yes no

Does the rock formation have existing bolted or non-bolted routes? yes no

Is there another route within 10 feet? yes no

Is your route a variation of an existing route? yes no

Will your route require climbing over plants? yes no

Are there lichens present (the orange/green stuff)? yes no

Have you seen evidence of animal activity near your proposed climb? yes no

If yes: nests burrows scat bats bee hives other: _____

Any evidence of a cultural resource nearby? yes no

If yes: rock art historic structures historic dump prehistoric resources

Submit application to:

Science and Resource Stewardship, C/O Power drill Request

Joshua Tree National Park

74485 National Park Drive

Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-3596

Or

bernadette_regan@nps.gov

Jane_rodgers@nps.gov