



## 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](http://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 only existing anchor free zone includes the rocks surrounding the trail leading to Barking Dam.*
- 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 Special Use Office 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.



Joshua Tree National Park

[www.nps.gov/jotr](http://www.nps.gov/jotr)

## 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:

**Superintendent, Joshua Tree National Park, 74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-3596**