



# over the EDGE

An Urban Rappelling Event

# RAPPELER HANDBOOK

August 8, 2026 | Hilton Vancouver Washington



# Over the Edge RAPPELER HANDBOOK

## **Thank you for registering to go Over The Edge for Imagination Library of Washington!**

Get ready for the experience of a lifetime as you rappel 86 feet down the Hilton Vancouver Washington on Saturday, August 8th—all to champion early literacy and help put more books into the hands and hearts of young children across Washington. We're thrilled to have you on this incredible journey!

## **But before you gear up to rappel, there's an important mission ahead.**

To earn your spot at the top of the Hilton Vancouver, each participant must raise \$1,000 to help deliver monthly books to children across Washington through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Together, we're aiming to raise \$100,000 to support the young readers and families who need us most.

By fundraising for your rappel, you're making a real impact—\$1,000 provides a FULL YEAR of free monthly books to 32 children through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

In this handbook, you'll find tips on how to raise \$1,000 (or more!) to support Imagination Library of Washington's mission, info about the Hilton Vancouver Washington building, what to expect on the day of your rappel, and more. This information is also available online at [imaginationlibrarywashington.org/over\\_the\\_edge\\_for\\_literacy](http://imaginationlibrarywashington.org/over_the_edge_for_literacy).

Questions, comments, or just want to chat about how nervously excited you are for your rappel? Give us a call or an email!

We can't wait to see you on top of Hilton Vancouver in August. Thank you for being a VERY brave literacy champion!

*Brooke Fisher-Clark*

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# Over the Edge RAPPELER HANDBOOK

## FUNDRAISING TIPS

### Start Early!

It may seem like you have all the time in the world, but August 8 will be here before you know it. The sooner you start, the more money you'll raise to get more monthly books to kids – and the sooner you'll reach your goal. Awesome fundraising incentives await, too! And, as soon as you reach your goal, you will be able to choose your rappel time and officially make it onto the event schedule!

### Get Help from Your Support System!

Spread the word! Share, share, share your personal fundraising page, photos, and videos to showcase your journey and inspire others to support your cause.

1. **Tell Your "Why"** - Share why you're going Over the Edge—whether it's a love for literacy, a personal connection to the cause, or the thrill of the challenge. A personal story makes your fundraising page more relatable and powerful.
2. **Start with Your Inner Circle** - Kick off your campaign by reaching out to close friends, family, and coworkers. Their early support not only builds momentum but also shows others that your cause matters.
3. **Use Social Media Creatively** - Post photos, videos, and updates on your training or fundraising progress. Go live, start a countdown, or create a challenge. Make it fun and engaging. Your personal fundraising page also has an email system built in that you can use to contact your friends, family members and colleagues and ask them to donate.
4. **Make the Ask Easy** - Include your fundraising link in texts, emails, and social bios. Hand out printed info cards with a QR code to your donation page. The easier you make it to give, the more likely people will.
5. **Offer a Thank You or Incentive** - Say thank you publicly or offer small perks like shoutouts, homemade treats, or silly dares (like wearing a Dolly Parton wig if you hit your goal). Gratitude goes a long way—and a little creativity adds excitement!
6. **Obtain Support from your Place of Employment** - Does your company match charitable contributions? Ask your human resources department if your company will match your donations or the total funds you raise!

### Use Your Community Connections!

Get something donated from a business in your community (gift certificate, swag bag, service, etc.), and create a raise-a-thon wee! In your email and on social media use wording like this: "Everyone who donates to me this week, will go in a draw to win XX". At the end of the week, get someone to take a video of you drawing a name, and post it! That person wins something, and you've made some extra money!



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Follow these steps to raise \$1,000 in 6 weeks!



## FUNDRAISING INCENTIVES

We're here to support you every step of the way as you reach your fundraising goals! As a thank-you for participating and championing Imagination Library of Washington, you'll receive special gifts at each fundraising milestone you achieve.

- \$1,000 - rappel spot + commemorative t-shirt
- \$1,250 - rappel spot + commemorative t-shirt + Imagination Library of WA tumbler + social media shoutout as a Literacy Champion
- \$1,500 - rappel spot + commemorative t-shirt + Imagination Library of WA tumbler + professional digital photo of your rappel + name listed on event website as a Rappel Champion
- \$2,500 - priority rappel spot selection + commemorative t-shirt + Imagination Library of WA tumbler + GoPro Camera + framed professional photo + recognition as Top Rappeler on event website + featured social media spotlight
- \$5,000 - premier rappel spot selection + commemorative t-shirt + Imagination Library of WA tumbler + GoPro Camera + framed professional photo + recognition as Top Literacy Leader on event website + 2 tickets to a local sporting event



# Over the Edge RAPPELER HANDBOOK

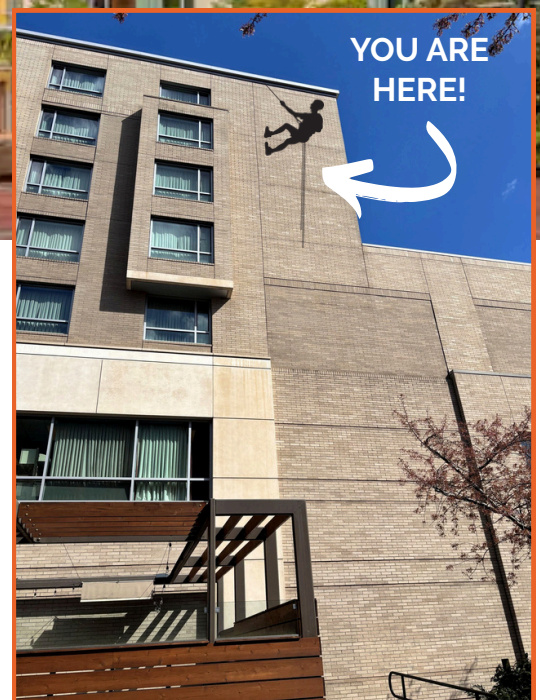
## THE BUILDING: Hilton Vancouver Washington

301 W 6th St, Vancouver, WA



The Hilton Vancouver hotel is located in the heart of downtown Vancouver, Washington, nestled across from beautiful Esther Short Park. Hilton Vancouver and Vancouver Convention Center is the first hotel in the world to attain both LEED and Green Seal certification. The beautiful Vancouver Waterfront and its pier, shops, and restaurants are just a nine-minute walk from Hilton Vancouver.

As you rappel on August 8th, you'll witness the energetic and fun environment of the Vancouver Arts & Music Festival, taking place around the hotel and downtown. Enjoy the scene once you reach the ground!





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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Who Can Rappel?**

Almost anyone who has registered and raises \$1,000 by August 8, 2026! Rappelers must weigh between 100 and 300 pounds to ensure their safety while rappelling. People in their 80s and 90s rappel! The only restriction is that anyone under the age of 18 requires a parent or guardian's signature on the legal waiver.

### **Where Do the Funds Go?**

All proceeds raised from the Over The Edge event benefit the Imagination Library of Washington, providing monthly books to children from birth to age five. When you go Over the Edge with us, you're showing Washington's youngest learners that anything is possible—with a little courage, a big heart, and the inspiration found in every Imagination Library book. When you raise \$1,000, that puts books into the hands of 32 children under age five for an entire year!

### **When Will I Rappel?**

Friday, August 7 is reserved for sponsors and media, and all other rappelers will go Over The Edge on Saturday, August 8. Once you get close to your fundraising goal, we'll reach out to you to schedule what time you'll be rappelling.

### **I've Never Rappelled Before. Can I Still Participate?**

Absolutely! Our expert technicians will provide all of the training and support you will need to go Over The Edge. You'll even get to practice up on the roof before you begin your 7-story rappel! If you want to practice before the big day, go rock climbing at a local climbing gym! Not only does rock climbing strengthen your forearms, but also it allows you to hang in a harness. Although the harnesses we use are different, you will still get the idea of what muscles it takes to stay up-right.

### **Can I Wear a Costume?**

Yes! Our on-site technical team will do their best to make your costume work for your rappel. The technical team has the final say in whether your costume is safe. Stringy, loose or excessive costumes should be avoided. Capes should be avoided. Head pieces that will not accommodate a helmet, obscure your vision or are notably large or heavy will not be allowed. Channel your inner Dolly Parton and dress the part in support of the Imagination Library of Washington!

### **Are Cameras and Phones Allowed with Rappelling?**

No phones, cameras, etc. on the roof. Helmet cams that operate hands-free are permitted. You must supply the mounting system. Go-Pro cameras are approved; all others will require preapproval. **NOTHING GOES OVER THE EDGE WITHOUT OTE'S APPROVAL.**

### **Can I Bring my Family and Friends Along to Cheer Me On as I Rappel?**

Yes, yes, yes! We welcome all rappelers to bring their crew to celebrate your heroic efforts rappelling for reading with Imagination Library of Washington. Enjoy fun activities, an epic ground party, and an energetic atmosphere as we cheer on everyone going Over the Edge for early literacy.

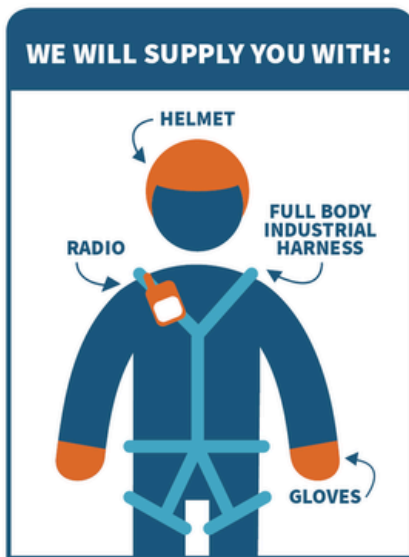


# Over the Edge RAPPELER HANDBOOK

## What to Expect on Rappel Day (August 8, 2026)

# over the EDGE WHAT TO WEAR

### WE WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH:



SNEAKERS



HAIR TIED BACK



FITTED CLOTHING

We recommend you wear well-fitting sneakers or other soft-soled shoes. All long hair should be tied back. To assure you're comfortable wearing the harness, we suggest wearing well-fitted clothing.

### NOT PERMITTED ON THE ROOF

You will be required to leave droppable items like keys and cell phones, or jewelry that can get caught on things, with a staff member on-site.



HIGH HEELS



DRAW CORD CLOTHING



JEWELLERY



LOOSE OBJECTS

You will be walking down the side of a building, so wear good shoes. Well-fitting sneakers, light hiking boots, or other soft soled shoes are best. No sandals, slip-ons, slippers, flip flops, heels, or steel toed boots allowed.

Comfortable long pants (tights, athletics pants) or shorts are recommended. Long or short sleeve t-shirts are best. The harness goes around your legs, waist, and shoulders, so it is best to avoid anything bulky. Shirts should be comfortable, without draw cords. Hair should be tied back.

You will be required to leave droppable items like keys and cell phones, or jewelry that can get caught on things, with a staff member on-site. You will be given a pair of leather gloves and a helmet when you arrive.

Many people choose to wear costumes for their rappel. All costumes need to meet the same standards as listed above. Capes must be approved by the Site Safety Supervisor for the main rappel. If you have a question about what alterations your costume will need, please email pictures of your costume prior to the event so our staff can check it out!



# Over the Edge RAPPELER HANDBOOK

## What To Expect on your BIG DAY!

### 1 ARRIVE AT THE EVENT and meet the Over The Edge techs



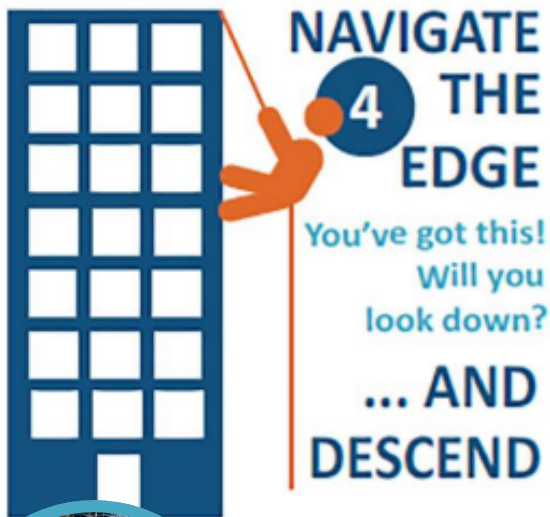
Arrive at the event no later than one-hour before your scheduled rappel time and find the registration table inside the lobby of the Hilton Vancouver Hotel. Here, you will sign your participant waiver and meet with the Over the Edge rope technicians.

### 2 HEAD TO STAGING to pick up your rappelling gear



### 3 TRAINING RAPPEL Get comfortable in the harness with a quick training.

At the staging area, you will get fitted with the Over the Edge rappeler gear. You will be provided with a helmet, radio, a full-body industrial harness, and gloves. Get comfortable in the harness and train with the expert rope technicians. After your training session, you will be escorted to the roof! You'll have an opportunity to train with our rope technicians up on the roof before you ... go Over the Edge!



### 4 NAVIGATE THE EDGE You've got this! Will you look down? ... AND DESCEND

You're ready to rappel for reading! Take in the amazing views of downtown Vancouver, and catch your breath. It's time to go Over the Edge! With support and guidance from the rope technicians, you'll rappel seven stories (86 feet) down the side of Hilton Vancouver Washington. We'll be cheering for you all the way down!

### 5 TOUCH DOWN at the landing zone. Some high-fives are in order!



### 6 THAT'S A WRAP

Back to staging to return your gear and retrieve your personal belongings. And don't forget to share your experience on social media! (tag us @imaginationlibrarywashington)

**You conquered  
the EDGE for  
Literacy!**

