

# CHALLENGE QUEST

## SO, YOU THINK YOU WANT TO BUILD

Building a zip line, suspension bridge, challenge course, aerial trekking park or canopy tour can provide a number of opportunities for your participants. Identifying your target participant, and building for their needs, helps ensure that you are meeting the goals of your organization.

Simon Priest helps us reign in four distinct program goals: Recreation, Development, Education, and Re-Direction. *Keep in mind that some elements can be built to reach one or all of your program goals.*

**Recreation:** Focuses most on entertainment and hosting large numbers of participants.

**Development/Education/Re-Direction:** Designed to slow the experience down in a way which creates team reliance, communication, and impactful learning. They are most impactful when paired with team discussion and debrief.

In addition to these program goals, ask yourselves these questions:

- Who is our target demographic for this course? Who are we looking to serve?
- How many participants does the entire facility accommodate per day? (Base this on other considerations to the course size – dining hall capacity, sleeping capacity, weather, staff availability)
- What is our desired capacity for participants on the structure per day/season/year?
- Will we build in trees or on structures? Trees can sometimes provide a lower cost of construction and shade, but can often be susceptible to disease and drought. Some will opt to build on poles among trees rather than on trees.  
Who will clear and prep the land? Who will do post-construction clean-up? Do I want mulch and barriers surrounding the new items?
- Where will we build?
- When do we want to have the project completed by?
- Is this a long term project with multiple building phases?
- Do we have a “friend” who will provide free pole and anchor setting?
- Who is the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)? Is there a law regarding zip lines or climbing walls in my state?
- Does the project lend to the mission statement of the organization and who they are serving?

Answering the above and further questions helps decide what should be built, how it should be built, and how many can participate per segment of time.

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