



**The Adventure Network**

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## **Canopy Tour & Aerial Adventure Course Selection Guide**



**The Adventure Network offers a wide range of Canopy Tour and Aerial Adventure Course options for any size program.**

**Whether your goal is to create a beautiful tour in the treetops or to challenge participants both mentally and physically, we're ready to help you customize your course!**

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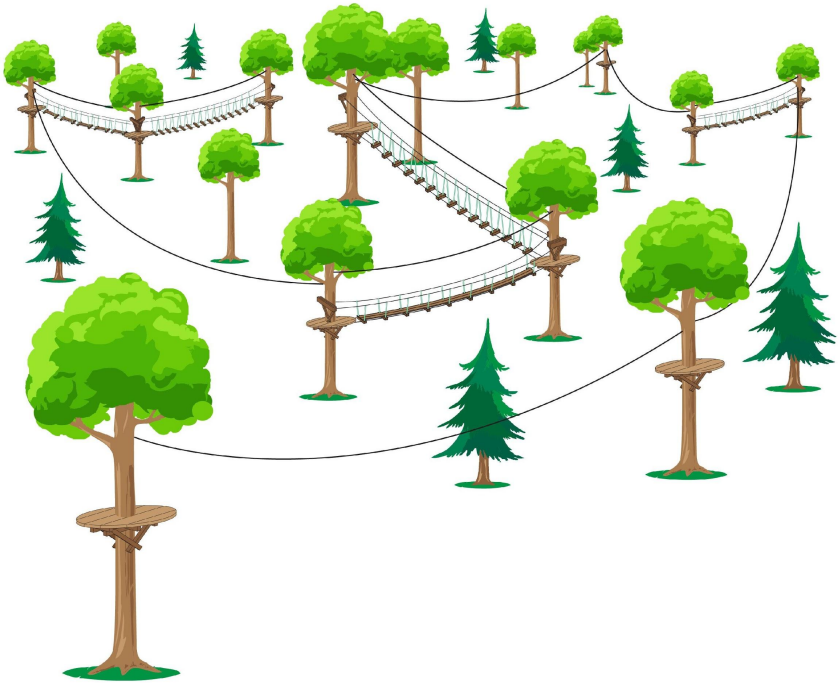
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### **A few quick notes:**

- Canopy tours and aerial adventure courses typically require static belay systems. We offer a variety of static belay systems ranging from traditional roving belay tethers, to “smart” lobster claws, to continuous belay systems that don’t require any belay transfers. Let us help you choose the system that best suits your needs.
- All of these elements can be built on sturdy trees or installed telephone poles. A site visit is the best way to determine the installation method needed.
- Many of these elements can be combined to create custom options specially designed for your program or clientele.
- See our Construction FAQ’s page for some of the most common questions we receive. Still have more questions, give us a call!
- Be sure to see our “Team and Low Challenge Course”, “High Challenge”, and “Climbing Tower/Wall Structures” pamphlets as well. Using a combination of elements from each will help you complete an amazing challenge course custom made for your facility.

# The Canopy Tour



Canopy tours are typically designed to have a low level of physical difficulty to keep them accessible to all ages and ability levels. Ideally they are placed in a location with beautiful natural surroundings. The tour depicted above is made solely with Sky Bridges and Ziplines to keep the challenge low and the fun level high. Canopy tours may cover quite a bit of land if they have several ziplines, so it is usually best to have a guide stationed out on the course to aid in assistance or answer questions.

# The Aerial Adventure Course



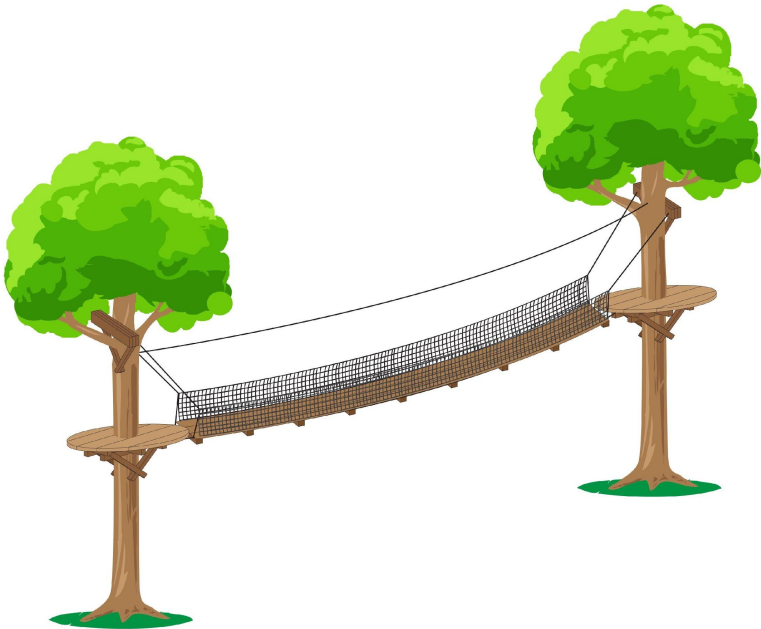
Aerial Adventure Courses tend to be more challenging than Canopy Tours. Aerial Adventure Courses may have different track options that make the course easier or harder. For example, at one tree platform you may be able to choose between several elements that lead to different parts of the course, some may be harder, some may just be a shortcut. The huge range in difficulty levels allow for a great diversity in course elements. The designs highlighted in this guide are all especially conducive to aerial adventure courses, but traditional high challenge designs may also work well.

# **Sky Bridge #1: Appalachian Bridge**



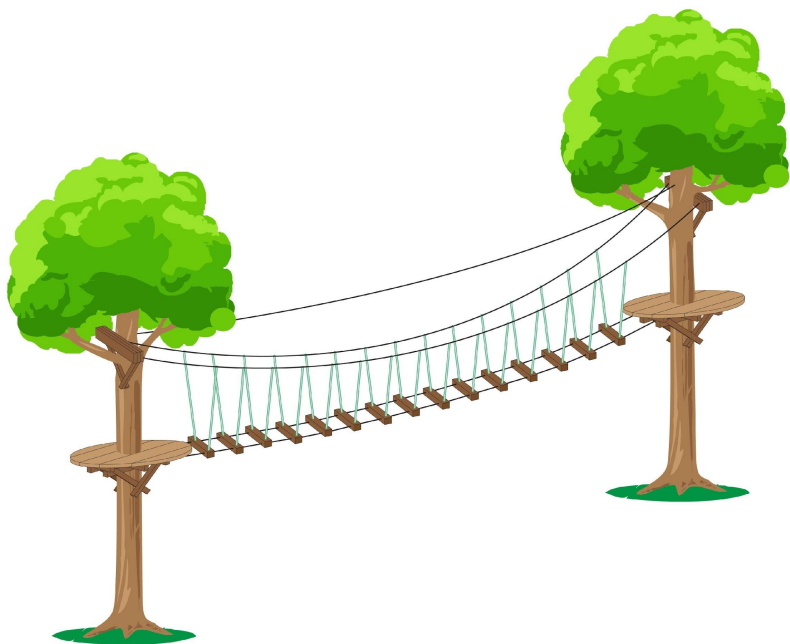
**The Appalachian Bridge is our standard Sky Bridge. It features a full-length foot plank, and enough stability that holding on may not even be necessary, although there are ample hand lines and cables for that purpose.**

# **Sky Bridge #2: Catskills Bridge**



**The Catskills Bridge is an Appalachian Bridge with cargo nets in place of the support ropes. The cargo nets add great aesthetics to the bridge. There is enough security inherent to this design that this bridge can be used off of the course for pedestrian creek crossings.**

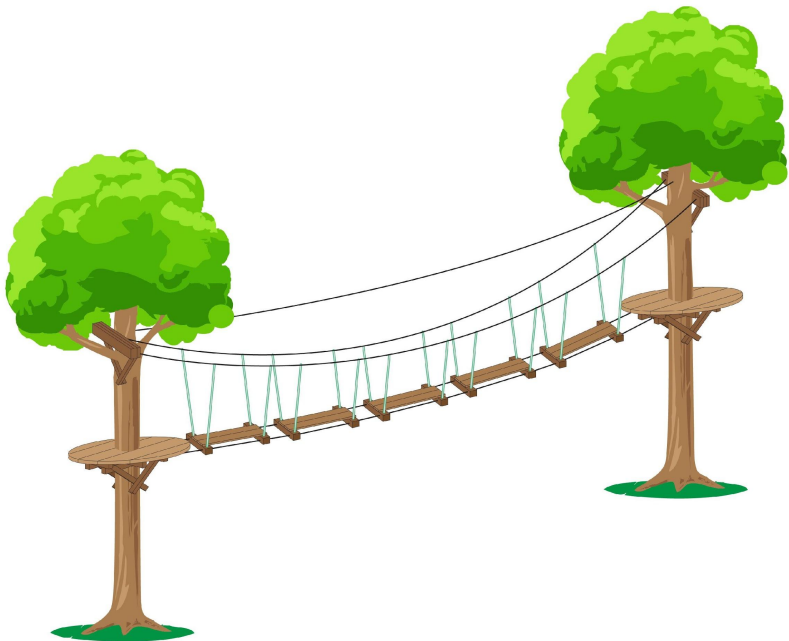
## **Sky Bridge #3: Adirondack Bridge**



**The Adirondack Bridge is a bare bones version of the Appalachian Bridge. We've stripped the foot plank, but have added several rungs to step on. This bridge adds a good deal of exposure with a view straight down past your feet!**

# **Sky Bridge #4:**

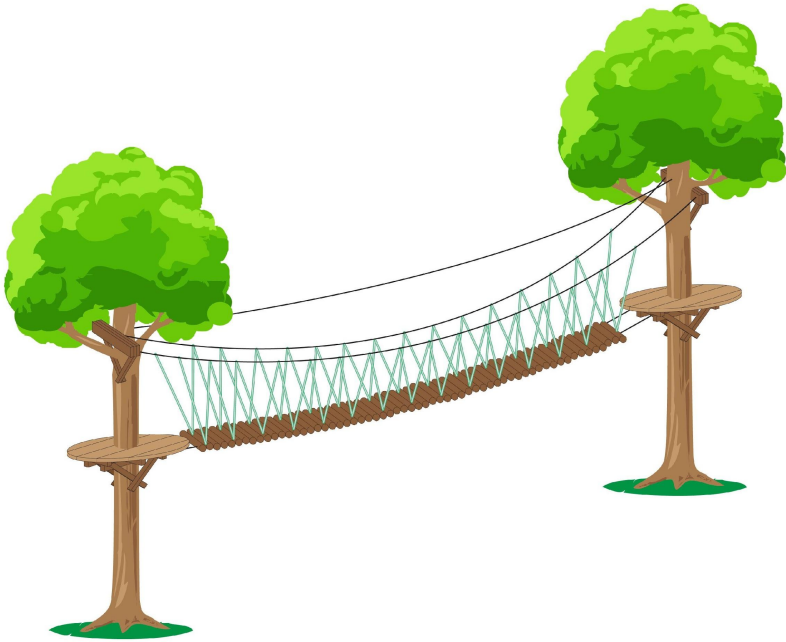
## **Sierra Bridge**



**The Sierra Bridge is a combination of the Appalachian and Adirondack Bridges. This one has short planks and gaps along the way. This bridge has a more adventurous look than the Appalachian Bridge without the added difficulty.**

# **Sky Bridge #5:**

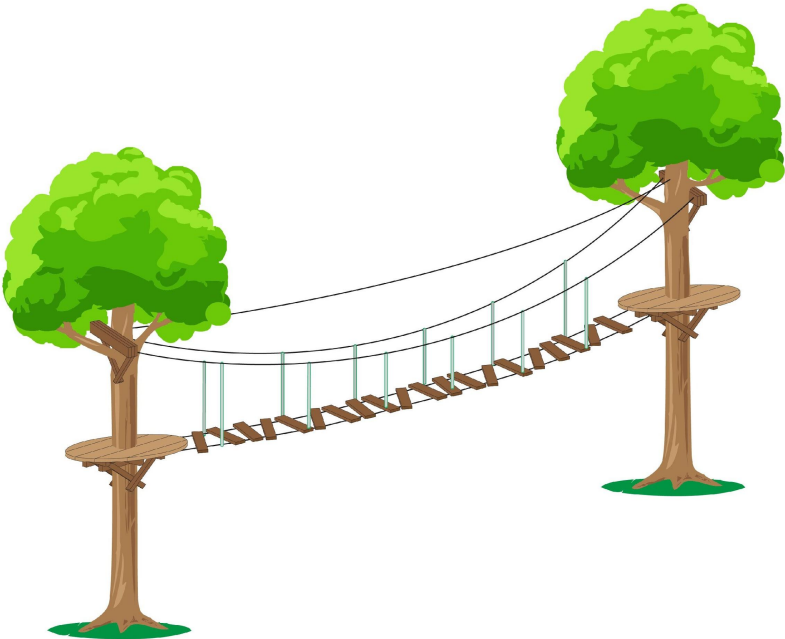
## **Inca Bridge**



**One of the easiest bridges to navigate. This bridge typically works best in short spans and can have many variations.**



# **Sky Bridge #6: Rickety Bridge**



**The Rickety Bridge adds a challenge by “removing” boards along the way. Hand-lines are optional based on the challenge desired.**

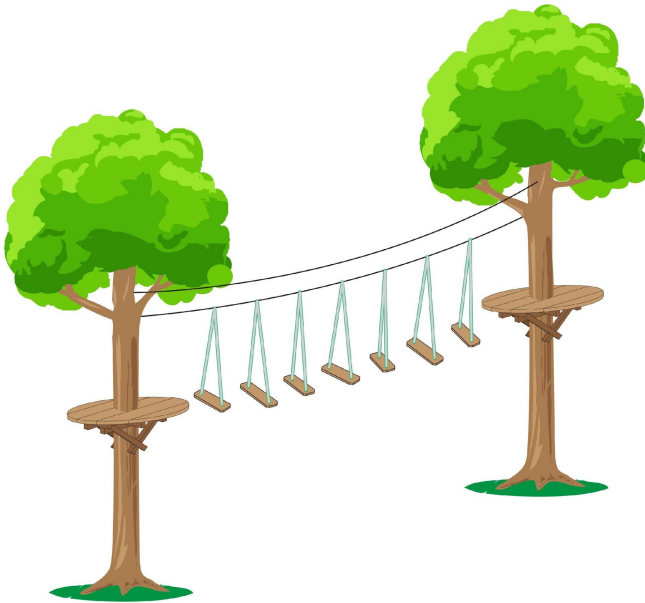
# **Sky Bridge #7:**

## **Waves Bridge**



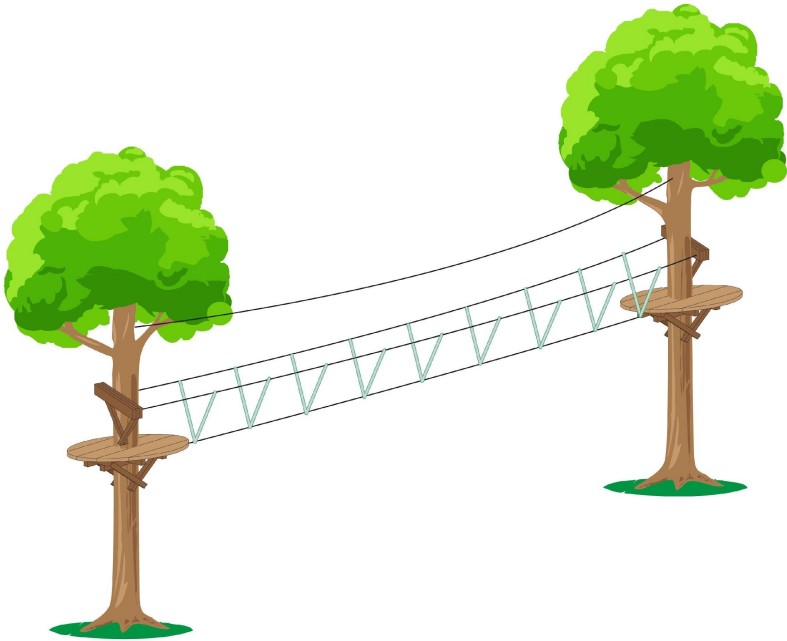
**The Waves Bridge is a fun alternative for less challenging courses and tours. This element is a great fit for courses built for a younger audience due to the solid material under the feet.**

# Bosun's Chairs



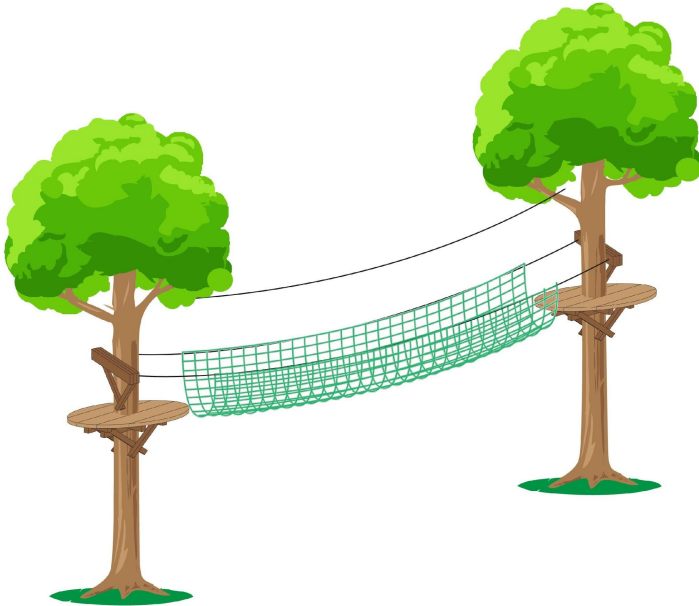
**The Bosun's Chairs is an old favorite from our High Challenge Selection Guide. The Bosun's Chairs element is a difficult traverse for more challenging courses. We recommend it for spans less than 25'. A good deal of upper body strength is required despite the foot plank. It is one of the most difficult stations listed in the guide.**

# Burma Bridge



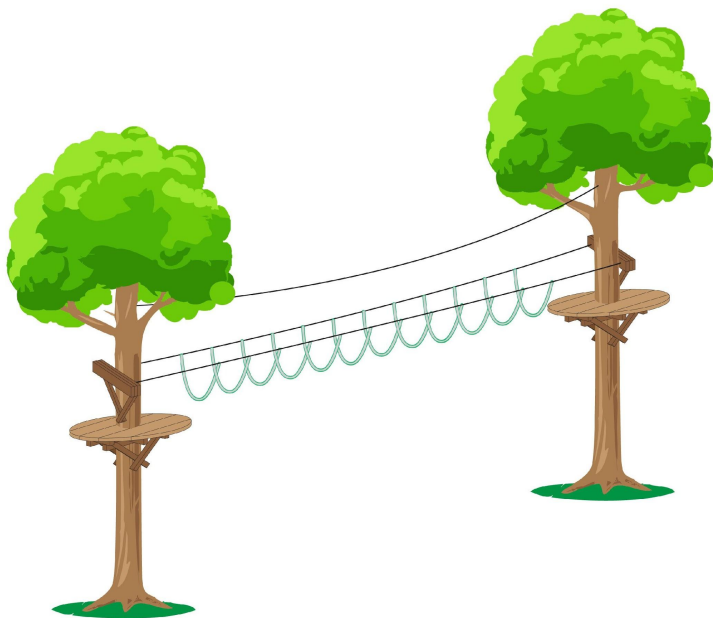
**The Burma Bridge is one of the most popular challenge course elements of all time. The Burma Bridge is the basis for 5 other popular designs in this guide. This element was one of the easiest high challenge stations, and provides a relatively easy traverse even when compared to the much more elaborate Sky Bridges in this guide.**

# Burma Bridge Net



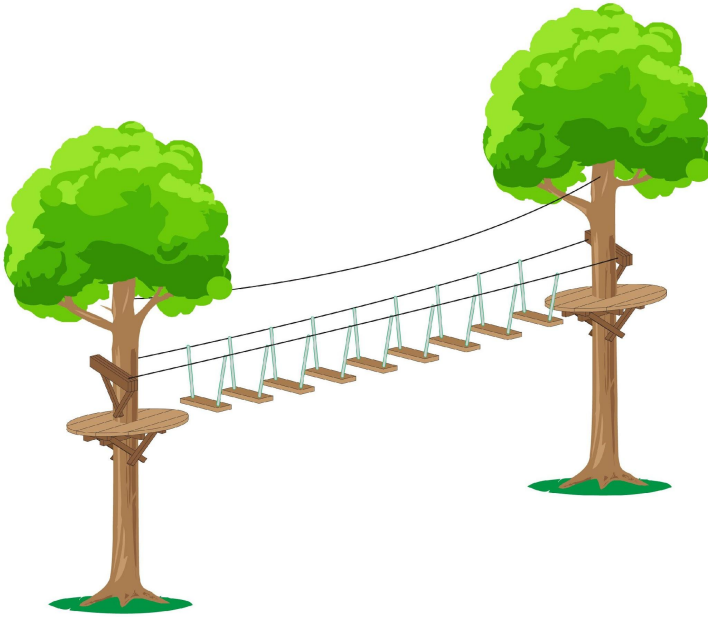
**The Burma Bridge Net envelops participants in a way that provides a great sense of security, but makes putting one foot in front of the other rather challenging! This element has a low level of difficulty.**

# Burma Loops



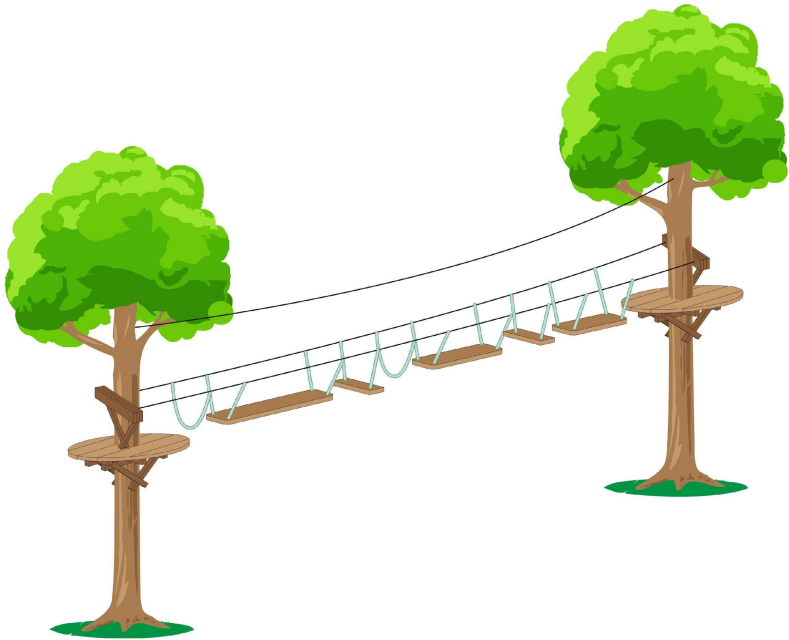
**The Burma Loops is a Burma Bridge without the foot cable!  
Taking away that 3/8" cable foothold adds quite a bit of  
challenge to the element. The foot loops really swing and are  
difficult to stabilize. The Burma Loops is a moderate difficulty  
level element.**

# Burma Steps



**The Burma Steps add a foot plank to the Burma Loops. The foot plank provides a great foothold, but doesn't do anything for the swing! The Burma Steps is another moderate difficulty level element.**

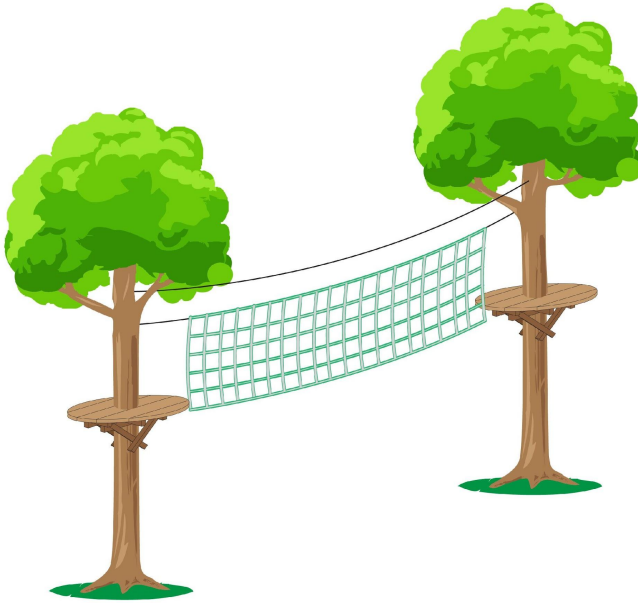
# Burma Planks, Loops, & Steps



**The Burma Planks, Loops, & Steps is a very popular combo element. The long planks swing just like the steps and loops, but provide a respite from the more difficult sections. This moderately difficult element is a bit easier than the Burma Steps or Loops elements, but is still harder than the Burma Bridge.**

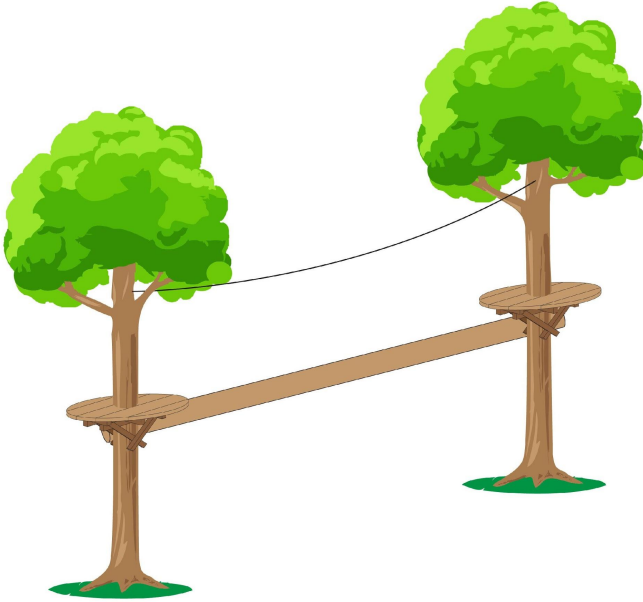


# Cargo Net Traverse



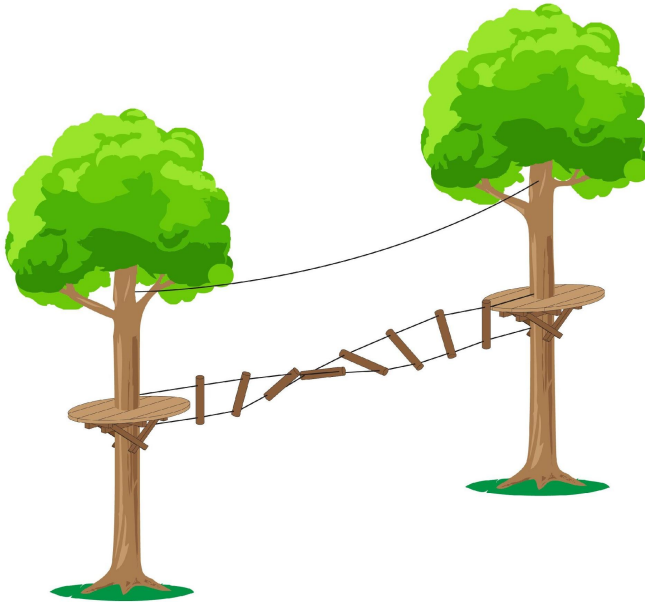
**The Cargo Net requires a good deal of upper body strength to traverse. We recommend it for spans of 20' or less, although any length is possible for an extreme challenge. This station is one of the more difficult stations listed in this guide.**

# Catwalk



**The Catwalk is another classic from our High Challenge guide that works very well on aerial adventure courses. It would be simple to balance across the pole on the ground, but up in the air it seems so much more difficult! This station can be made much easier by simply holding onto the belay tether, but no other hand lines are provided. This station provides a moderate level of difficulty.**

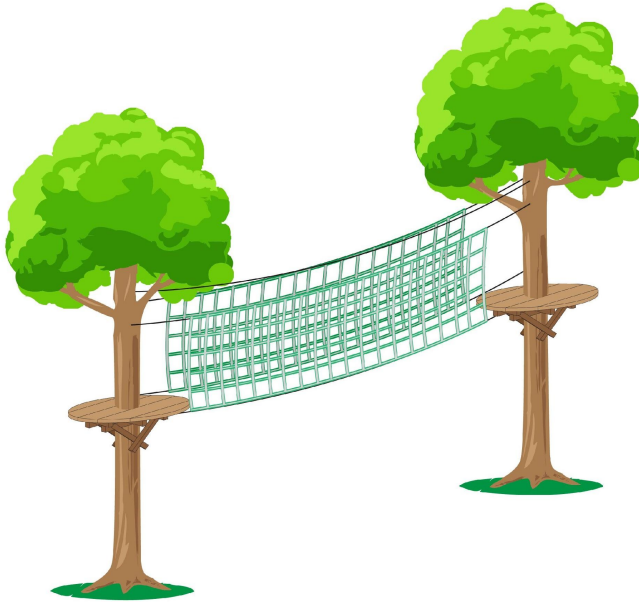
# DNA



**The DNA is just like the Horizontal Ladder... with a twist!  
Participants can combine walking and crawling to get across  
this element successfully.**

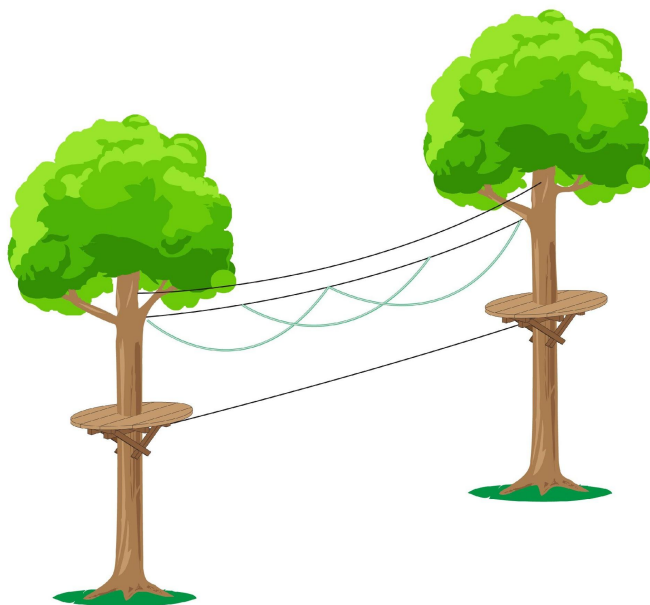
**This element has a high level of difficulty.**

# Double Cargo Net



The Double Cargo Net is similar to the single variety, but the participant must navigate between the nets with one hand/foot on each. This element requires a good deal of upper body strength to traverse. We recommend it for spans of 20' or less, although any length is possible for an extreme challenge. This station is one of the more difficult stations listed in this guide.

# **Droopy Three-Line**



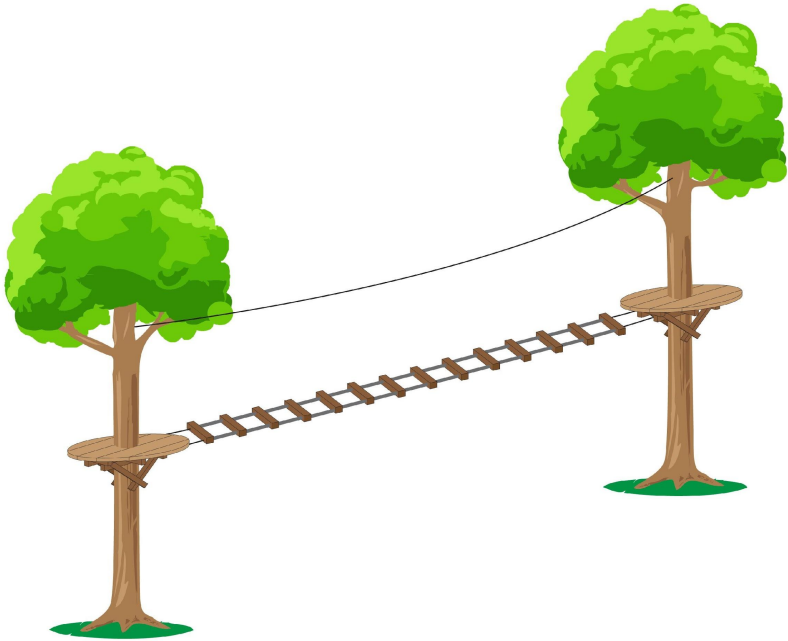
**The Droopy Three-Line challenges participants to figure out how to keep tension on the ropes hanging down, in order to stay balanced as they traverse across the foot cable. The Droopy Three-Line provides a moderate level of difficulty.**

# Floating Islands



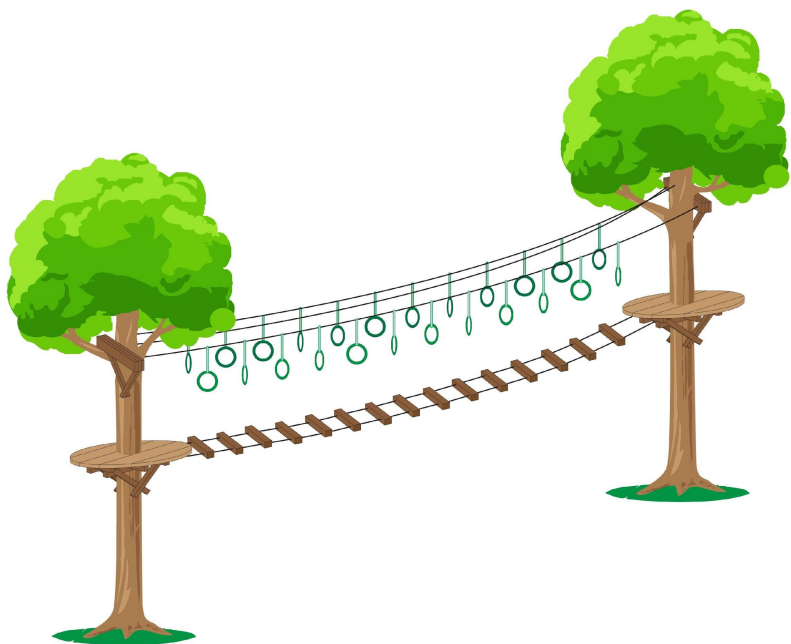
**The Floating Islands are a dynamic challenge! These large platforms really swing! The crux is timing the jump from platform to platform just right. Three platforms is the standard for this station, but two or four is also possible. Three platforms put the spacing at about 25' between trees. This is one of the harder elements listed in this guide.**

# Horizontal Ladder



**The Horizontal Ladder is quite a balance test – especially on the longer spans. Those wanting an ultimate test of balance can try walking, but some opt to crawl across. The ladder is designed to feel quite loose, but can’t flip over despite its sensations to the contrary. The Horizontal Ladder has varying difficulty levels based on approach – It’s rather easy to walk across while holding the belay tether, but very difficult to do hands free.**

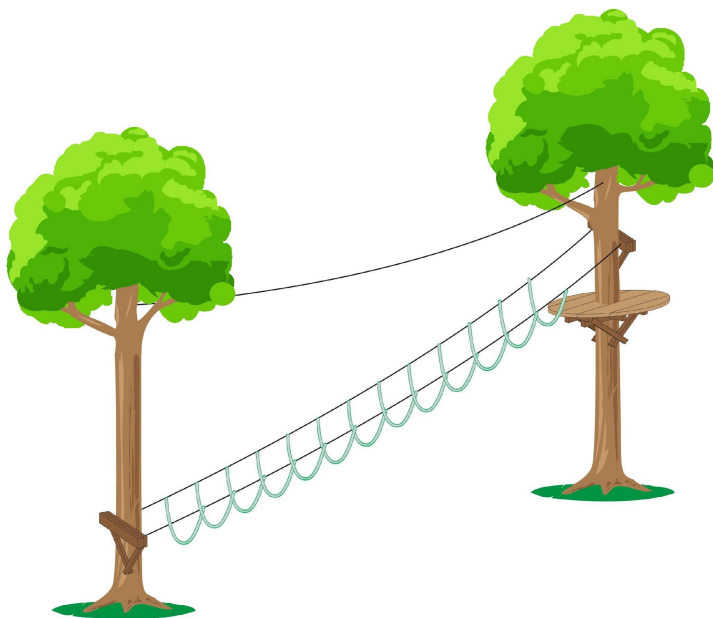
# Horizontal Ladder with Rings



**An easier variation of the Horizontal Ladder, the addition of the rings gives participants something to hang onto while they work to get across the ladder.**

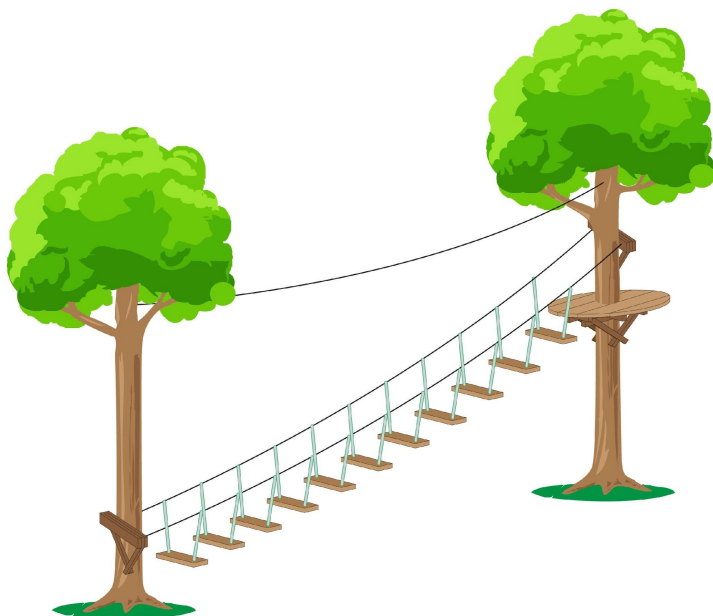


# Inclining Burma Loops



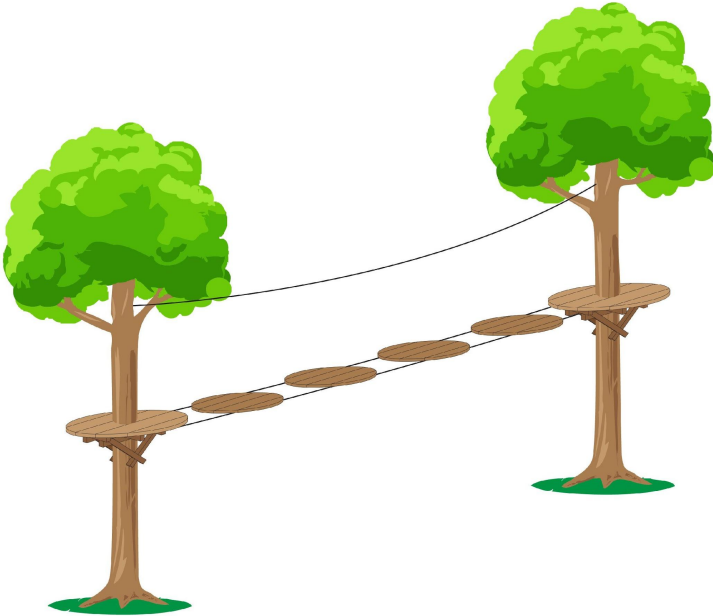
**Inclining Burma Loops provides a visually appealing, alternative approach to accessing the course. Instead of using a ladder, the loops start at ground level and participants elevation as they climb the element. This element is challenging.**

# Inclining Burma Steps



**Inclining Burma Steps provides a visually appealing alternative approach to accessing the course. Instead of using a ladder, the steps start at ground level and participants' elevation as they climb the element. This element is challenging.**

# Lily Pads



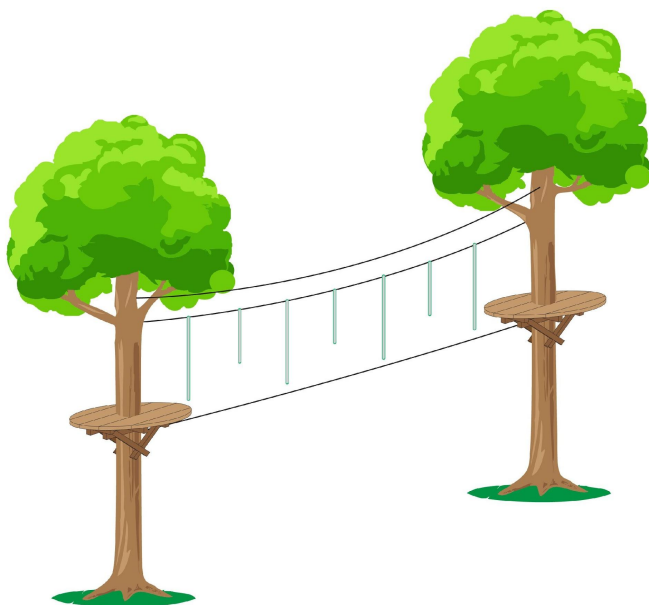
**The Lily Pads are a more static version of the Floating Islands element. These platforms don't swing like the Floating Islands, but they sure do wobble and sway! This station has a great visual impact and is a great addition to an aerial adventure course. This element is very difficult to traverse hands free, but becomes much simpler with the aid of the belay tether as a hand line.**

# Lily Pads with Hand-Lines



**Adding hand lines to the Lily Pads makes this element easier, while maintaining the wobble and sway of original design.**

# Grapevine Traverse



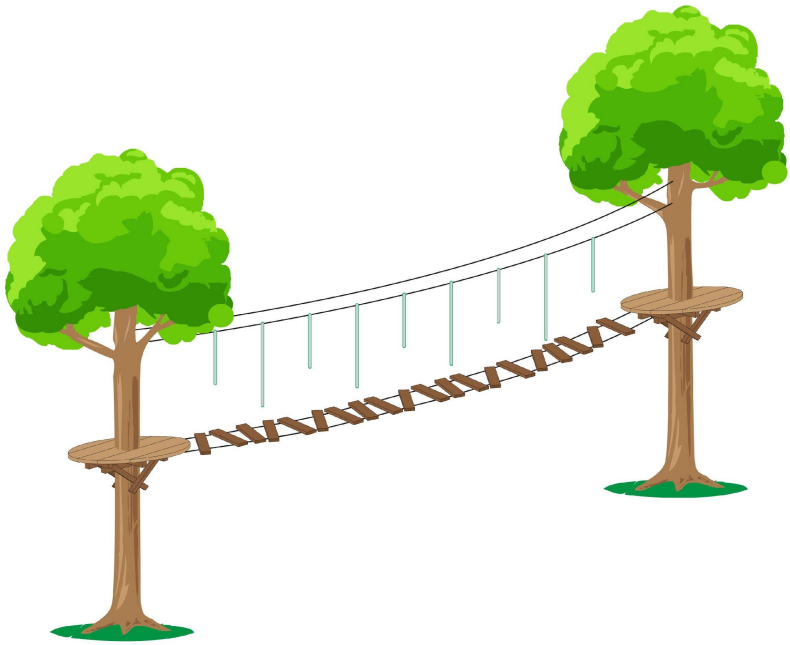
**The Grapevine Traverse is one of the all-time favorite high challenge elements, and makes a great addition to any aerial adventure course.**

# Double Grapevine Traverse



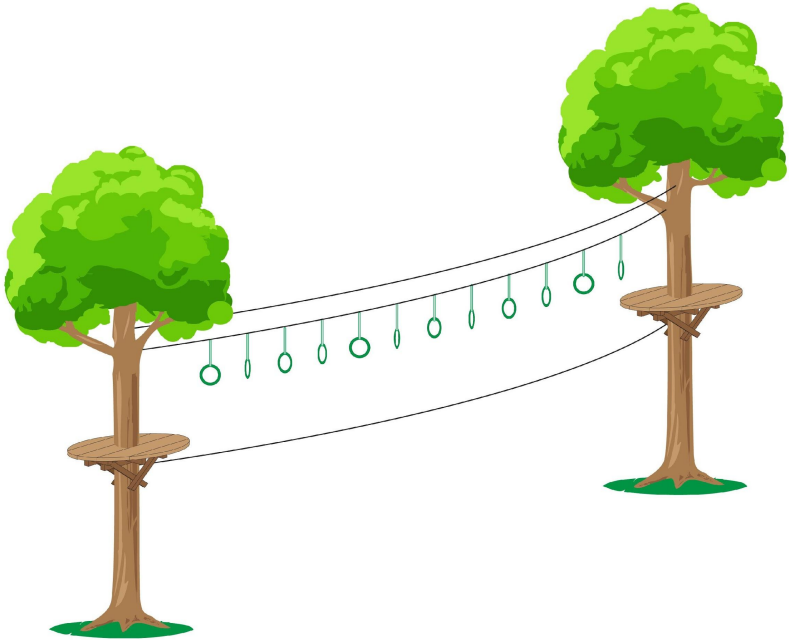
**A subtle modification to this classic element is visually appealing and makes the element a bit easier for participants.**

# **Rickety Bridge with Grapevines**



**A modification of the Rickety Bridge element. The added grapevines are more difficult than full hand lines. Grapevines can also be swapped for rings or removed altogether for a difficult level of challenge.**

# Ring Traverse



**The eye-catching Ring Traverse is similar to the Grapevines Traverse. The Ring Traverse shown above is moderately difficult, however can be made slightly easier with the addition of a second hand line with rings. The single bottom cable can also be replaced with other options for a custom solution.**

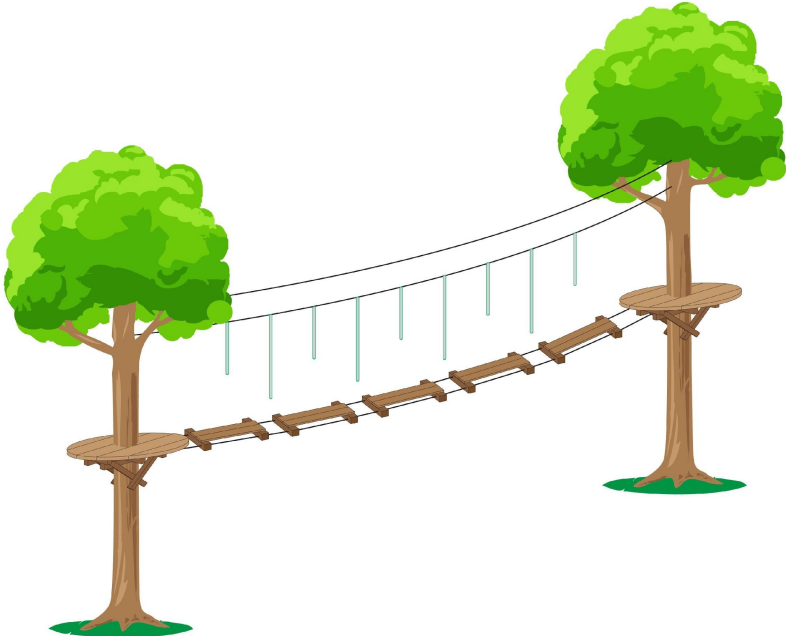


# Ship's Mast Net



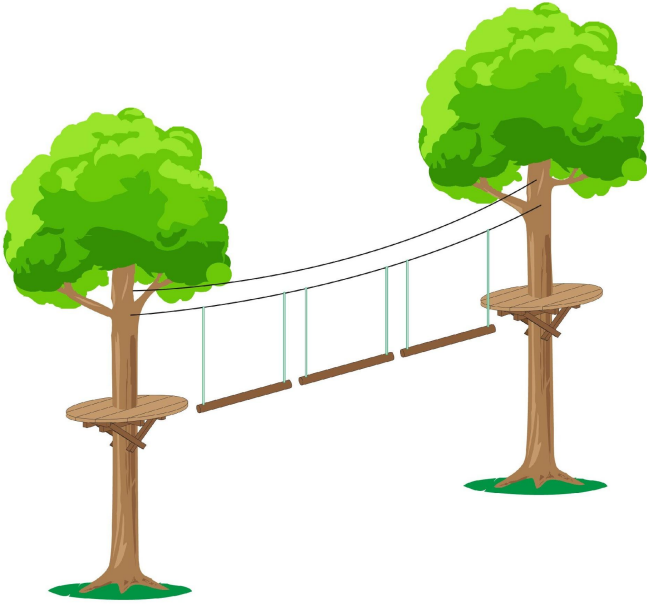
**The Ship's Mast Net is basically a narrow vertical cargo net. The bottom is slightly wider and is anchored down to create an incline. This station can be used as a stand-alone element, or for exciting access to a challenge course.**

# Sierra Bridge with Grapevines



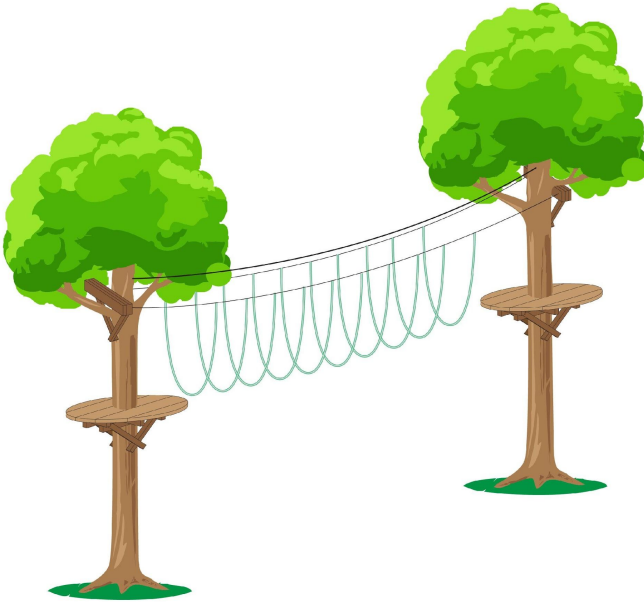
**A more challenging variety of the Sierra Bridge. With the lack of solid hand lines for the distant, participants must reach from one rope to the next.**

# Swinging Log Traverse



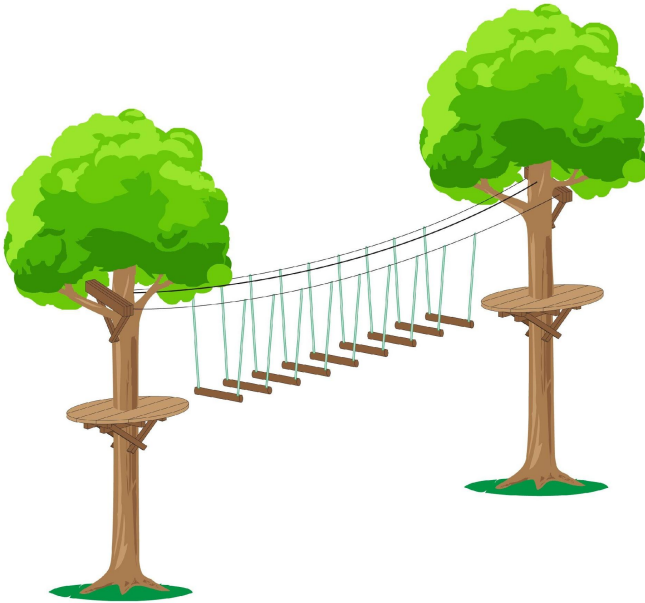
**This is a variation on the classic low challenge element of the same name. Our high Swinging Log Traverse has several logs, each swinging independently of one another. The span between support ropes is just wide enough to make for an insecure reach! Stepping from log to log is a challenge by itself! This station is one of the harder ones for the more challenging courses.**

# Swinging Loops



**Similar to the Burma Loops, the Swinging Loops extend the ropes above the participants head. This element has the added challenge that as participants step from one loop to the next, they must maintain balance in two directions.**

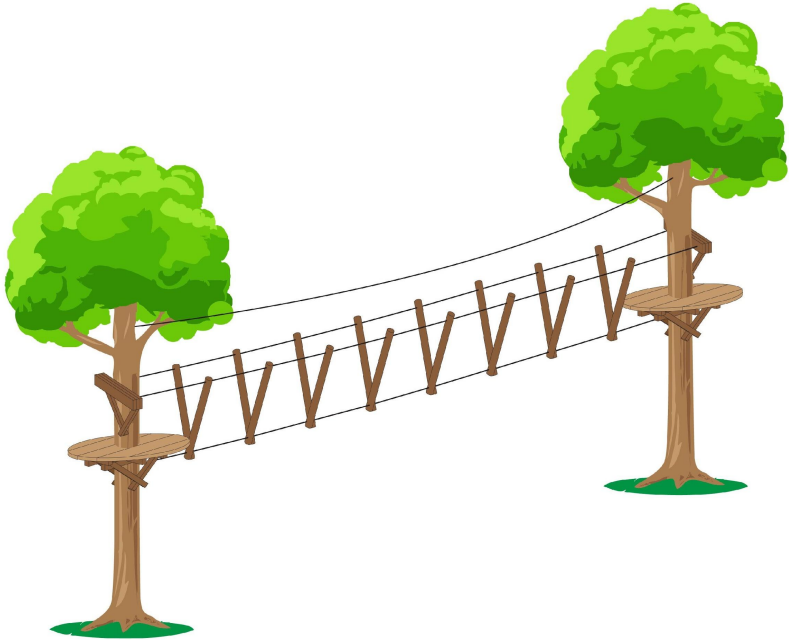
# Swinging Steps



**These Swinging Steps are a giant version of the classic Burma Steps element. The support ropes are much longer on this station, so they are used as hand lines unlike the Burma Steps, where some security is gained by holding the support cables.**

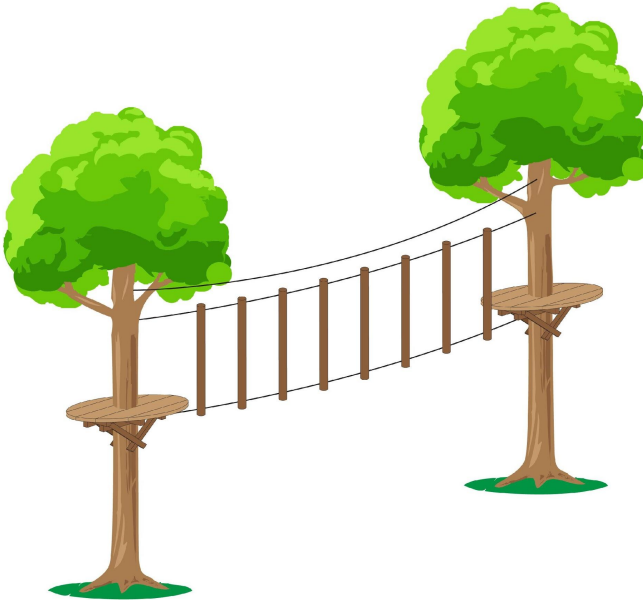
**This element is moderately challenging, more so than the Burma Steps.**

# Timber Burma



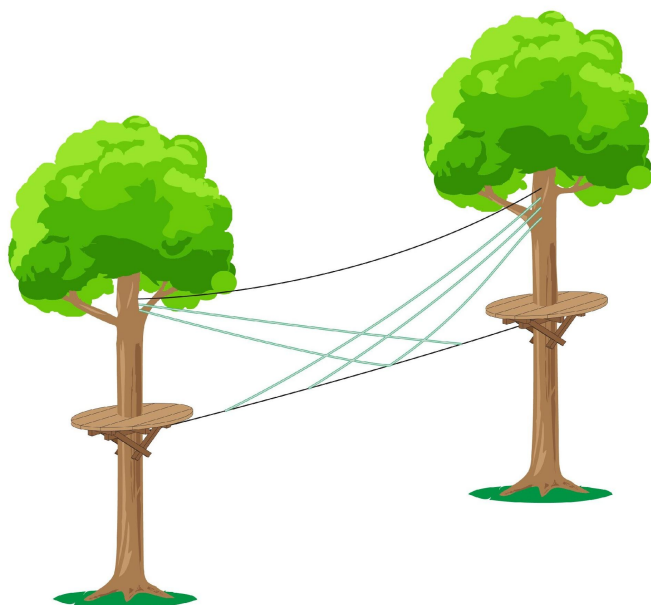
**The Timber Burma uses timbers in place of the support ropes on the classic Burma Bridge element. The timbers provide much more stability than the ropes, making this bridge great for any length span. Aside from the Sky Bridges, this is the easiest bridge in the guide.**

# Timber Traverse



**The Timber Traverse is easy enough on shorter spans, but the timbers really start to lean on longer spans! There's always a reprieve between the timbers, but it seems as though the bridge is trying to spit you off as you pass each timber. This station can be designed to be easier by offsetting the overhead bolts, which creates a lean that works in the climber's favor**

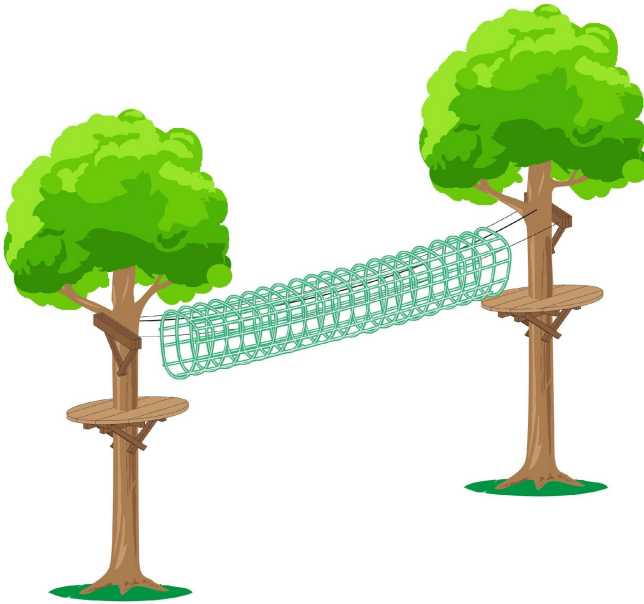
# Triple Pirate's Crossing



**This variation of the standard Pirate's Crossing provides an additional hand line, yet is still quite challenging! It starts off easy but becomes very unstable and shaky when you reach the crux (the center.) The hand-lines are typically adjustable and can be loosened or tightened to change the level of difficulty.**

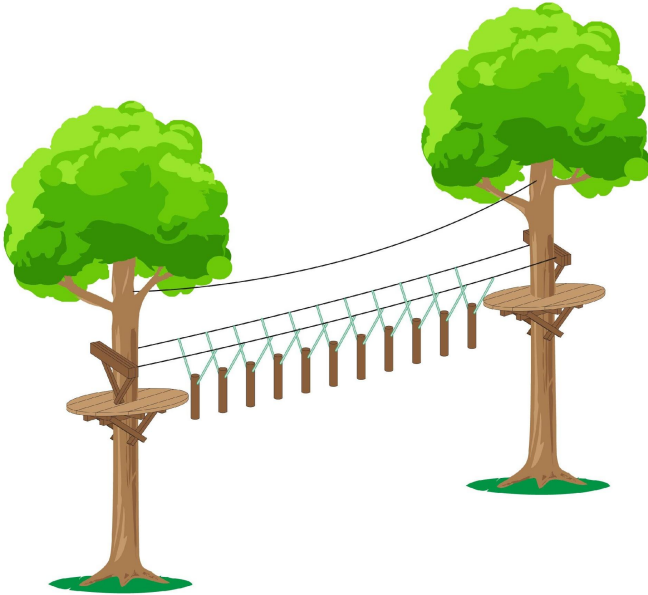


# Tube Net



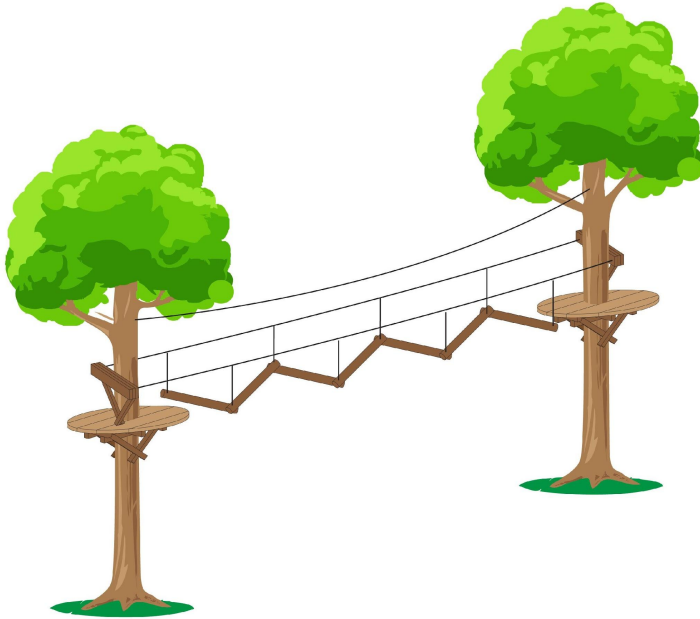
**The Tube Net is a favorite low challenge element now taken to new heights! This station works very well on continuous courses because the belay cable can pass directly through the net. The Tube Net gives a great sense of security up high as the participant is completely enveloped in the net. The view is striking too – crawling through the net means you’re always looking straight down! This element can be built on an incline to access a course at height, or to switch levels midway through a course.**

# Wind Chimes



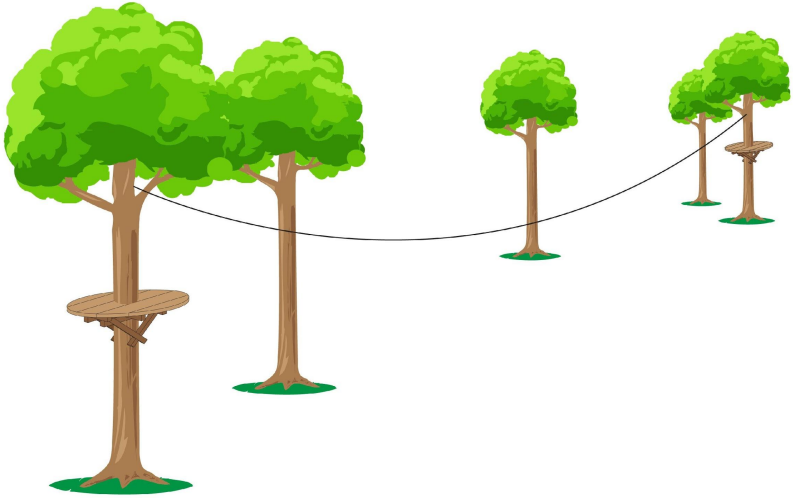
**The Wind Chimes are very similar to the Burma Steps, but this station adds some acoustics to the climb, hence the name. As the climber traverses from step to step the timbers smack and sound like wind chimes!**

# Horizontal Zigzag



**This element will have you zigging and zagging as you traverse its length. The two support cables double as a handrail, and the timbers run the full length without break making the traverse reasonably simple.**

# Zipline



**The Zipline is a key component on a Canopy Tour. Some tours are made entirely of linked ziplines! The zipline requires very little (if any) input from the rider, so they're great for participants of all ages and ability levels. Ziplines are a classic way to exit a course, but they can also be used to access a course.**

# Construction FAQ's

## Why choose Adventure Network?

The Adventure Network is committed to working alongside our clients to build the best possible course within their program and budgetary requirements. Many of our clients begin with just a few elements and expand their course over many years. Be sure to discuss expansion options with our staff before beginning a build so we can plan the course accordingly.

When pricing a new course, we review all the details, including utility pole installation (if needed), hardware, instructional gear, and incidentals so you get a complete cost analysis.

We are an ACCT (Association for Challenge Course Technology) accredited PVM (Professional Vendor Member) and our installation teams conform to ACCT Standards for all builds. Our staff has over 50 years of experience in the challenge course industry, installing over 200 low and high courses around the country. As challenge course facilitators and former education and camp staff members, we understand the needs of our clients and customize every course to the program and facility.

## Should I build my new course on trees, or install utility poles?

Although building a tree-based course may require less initial investment, the long term costs can be greater than pole courses. Trees continue to grow and require added maintenance as this happens. Much of this decision is based on the land available. Do you have many large field spaces, or sturdy stands of healthy trees? Some of our clients may combine the use of trees and poles throughout their course. Our staff will discuss the options with you and help you make the best decision for your program.



### **Do you offer custom options?**

Our team of professional challenge course builders has worked on many projects that began as “napkin sketches”. Although we offer this guide as a starting point to many of our more popular elements, The Adventure Network is always ready to make your idea a reality. We’ll work with you and your staff to help design a course that best suits YOUR needs, even complete custom projects. See some sample photos of “non-traditional” challenge course elements and courses on our website. Still don’t see quite what you’re looking for, give us a call to speak with one of our project managers.

### **Can I visit a course?**

Sometimes you need to see elements in person to understand how they work. Give us a call and we’ll work to schedule a visit to a facility near you. Visit our website for a photo gallery as well.

### **Do you build courses year-round?**

The short answer is “yes”, however we’ll do everything we can to work around your facility’s “off-season” months (if applicable).

### **When can you start?**

Give us a call or send us an email to get started today!



Visit us on the web at:  
[www.Adventure-Network.net](http://www.Adventure-Network.net)

3rd edition  
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