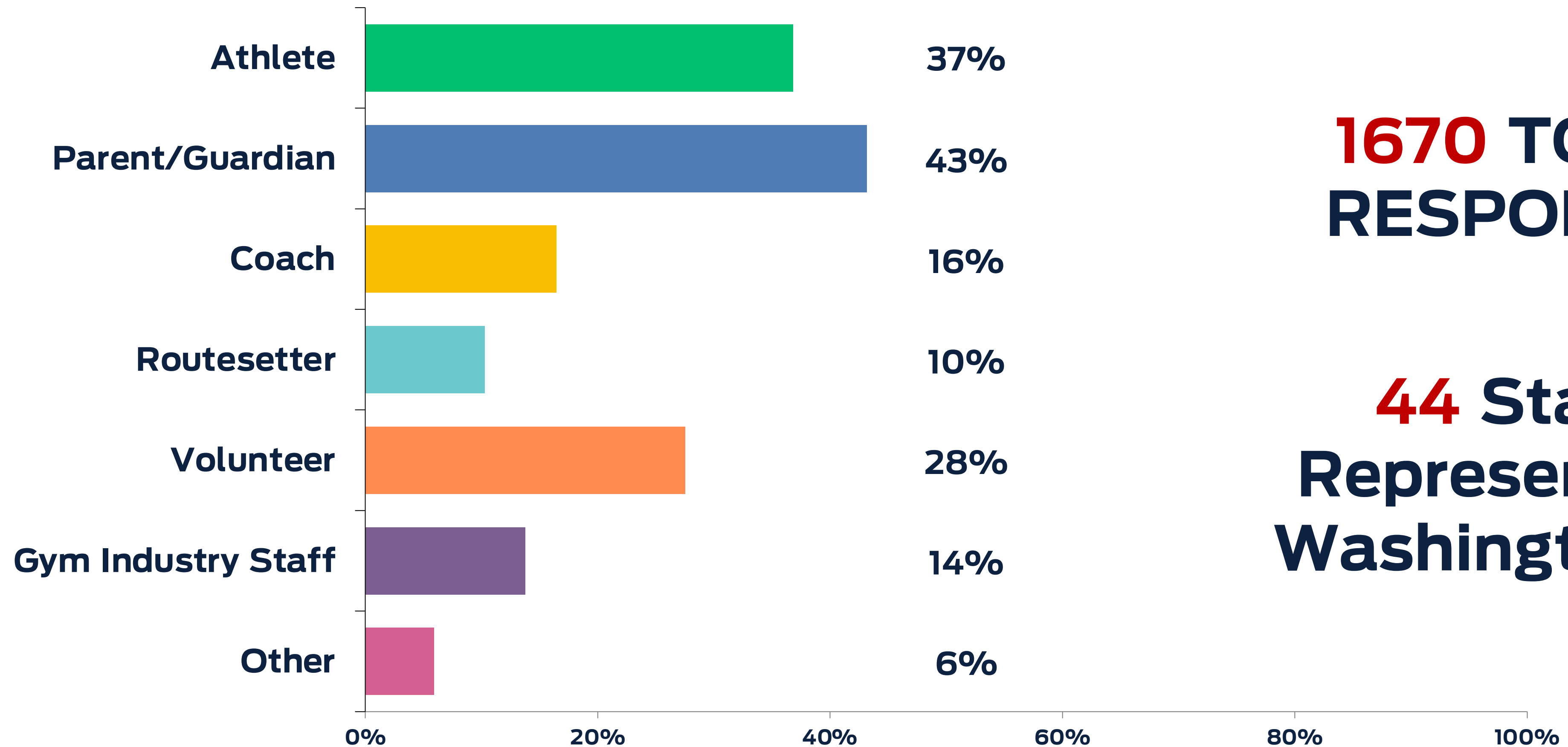


NTC COMMUNITY SURVEY
INITIAL FINDINGS

March 29-April 12, 2024



Who responded?



**1670 TOTAL
RESPONSES**

**44 States
Represented +
Washington, DC**

Respondents allowed to select multiple categories

Would you travel to Salt Lake City to train at the NTC?

44%

**Likely or
Very Likely**

21%

**Not
Sure**

36%

**Unlikely or
Very Unlikely**

Which events should the NTC be designed to accommodate?

82%

Youth National Championships

80%

IFSC World Cups & World Championships

78%

National Championships, Paraclimbing National Championships & Team Trials

74%

Collegiate National Championships

71%

North American Cup Series (NACS)

6%

None of the Above

Here's what respondents had to say:

From the 8% of respondents who provided written feedback on this question, we noted a sentiment that concentrating events in a single city like Salt Lake City could limit accessibility and fairness for climbers across the country, particularly due to the financial burden on athletes and families for travel. Suggestions included rotating events nationwide and providing travel subsidies or aid to ensure equitable competition access. While there's a clear recognition of the need for a premier facility to host major events, there's also a desire to maintain diversity in event locations across the country. The NTC is seen as suitable for elite-level competitions, but local gyms should continue hosting smaller events to support the growth of the sport. Some expressed concerns about the location of the NTC in Utah, citing inclusivity and the political climate of the state.

What level(s) of athletes should have access to the NTC?

83%

**Active National Team &
National Development Team**
(Elite, Paraclimbing, Collegiate, or Youth)

79%

**Highly-ranked Competitive Climbers
who have competed at a
National/International Level**

67%

**Any Athlete with an Active USAC
Competitive Membership**
(Elite, Paraclimbing, Collegiate, or Youth)

40%

**Anyone with a current paid USA
Climbing Membership**

30%

**Any Climber seeking to train on
high-level routes/problems**

Here's what respondents had to say:

From the 16% of respondents who provided written feedback for this question, many expressed the importance of making the National Training Center accessible to various groups, including athletes, coaches, and the public, ensuring access for underprivileged climbers, accommodating different skill levels and age groups, and avoiding exclusivity. Other respondents emphasized a desire for the NTC to primarily serve elite athletes and those with aspirations for high-level competition, such as national and international competitions, including Olympic-level training.

Which amenities should be provided at the NTC?

Enhanced off-wall conditioning/training resources and equipment for athletes.	84%
Routesetting, coaching, and/or other education resources and space to host in-person or online training sessions.	80%
Space and resources to facilitate in-person team visits in which coaches from around the country can train and develop their team members.	76%
Onsite physiotherapist to treat athletes and provide in-person or online training sessions to coaches/trainers at USAC member gyms <i>(e.g., best practices to prevent injuries, safe ways to train during injuries)</i>	64%
Athlete wellness & mental health resources	62%
Recovery and therapy resources (e.g., hot/cold therapy, compression therapy, laser treatment, EMS)	59%
Dedicated study, work, or lounge space.	59%
Space and resources to review training or competition film.	58%
An onsite nutritionist to provide advice to athletes/parents as well as occasional training sessions regarding best practices for coaches/trainers at USAC member gyms.	48%
Private National Team Locker Rooms	38%
Other. Open-ended Response	12%

Which services would you utilize at the NTC?

Official USAC Competition Training Camps (e.g. Pre-Nationals camps)	81%
Other Development Camps (e.g. skills development)	75%
Space and Resources for in-Person Climbing Team Visits	58%
Routesetting education clinics	52%
Health and Nutrition Education Clinics	46%
Physical therapy services for athletes	38%
Clinics for coaches	37%
Other. Open-Ended Response	7%

Which entry fee models would you consider to train at the NTC?

78%

Day Pass

65%

**Multi-visit
Punch Pass**

43%

Monthly Pass

42%

Annual Pass

79%

Team/Group Rate

74%

**Discounted Rates for
Underserved Communities**

Here's what respondents had to say:

The 12% of respondents who provided written feedback on this question strongly emphasize equitable access and making the facility accessible to a wide range of climbers, especially those facing financial barriers, underserved communities, and people with disabilities. Suggestions include scholarships and free or heavily discounted access for USAC members, especially competitive athletes, underserved communities, veterans, and youth climbers. Concerns are raised about the potential financial burden on athletes and families, especially those traveling long distances. Some express concerns about commercializing the NTC and competing with local climbing gyms. Others stress the importance of transparency in how entry fees are determined and allocated, particularly if the NTC is partly funded by public funds or USAC membership dues, suggesting that fee structures align with USAC's mission and values.

OPEN ANSWER Predominant Themes

20% of respondents included feedback at the end of the survey. Here are some of the predominant themes of those comments:

- **Focus on Inclusivity and Accessibility:** A significant number of responses suggest that the NTC should cater to climbers of all levels and backgrounds, including youth and para-climbers. Accessibility and inclusivity in design and programming are seen as critical. This includes addressing potential barriers to access, such as travel distances and costs, as well as ensuring equitable opportunities for climbers from underserved areas.
- **Support for Athletes:** Many respondents emphasize the importance of supporting elite athletes, particularly through providing world-class facilities and resources. This includes dedicated training spaces, specialized equipment, and coaching. Some respondents express concern about the lack of support and investment in youth athletes, particularly those who represent a significant portion of USAC competitors and competitions. Others called for more inclusive programs for economically disadvantaged climbers.
- **Impact on Local Gyms:** A recurring theme is concern about the potential negative impact on local climbing gyms. Respondents are wary that the NTC might draw climbers away from existing gyms, potentially harming their businesses.
- **Community Engagement and Transparency:** Respondents want USAC to engage with the climbing community transparently about plans for the NTC and to consider feedback from a variety of stakeholders. Some emphasize the need for clear communication regarding the center's mission and objectives. Respondents desire involvement in decision-making processes and clear updates on the project's progress.
- **Resource Allocation and Prioritization:** There are concerns about the allocation of USAC's resources toward the NTC project, with some questioning whether funds could be better used to support athletes directly through travel expenses, stipends, or lower competition fees. Some respondents express the need for USAC to prioritize improving and running the existing organization and its events, rather than taking on a project like the NTC.

OPEN ANSWER Predominant Themes (continued)

- **Catering to Elite Athletes and National Team:** While inclusivity is important, some responses argue that there should be designated spaces or times exclusively for national team members or elite athletes. While support exists for a facility that caters to elite athletes and events, there is concern about balancing these goals with the needs of the broader climbing community. Ensuring fair access and opportunities for all climbers is a priority.
- **Facilities and Amenities:** Many suggestions are made for various amenities within the NTC, including training resources, off-wall training areas, and sports medicine facilities.
- **Regional Facilities:** Some respondents suggest focusing on creating regional facilities across the country rather than investing in a single, large-scale NTC in Salt Lake City. Some respondents advocate for rotating competitions and events across different regions to provide equitable opportunities for climbers nationwide.
- **Potential for Competition and Conflict:** A few responses point out the potential for conflict between USAC's project and existing local businesses and gyms.
- **Importance of Culture and Community:** Respondents emphasize the importance of maintaining a culture of support and inclusivity within the climbing community. The location of the NTC in Utah has raised concerns due to the state's political climate and the impact this may have on some climbers.

OPEN ANSWER Benefits and Opportunities

Benefits for Elite Athletes: Respondents see the potential for significant benefits for elite athletes, including more consistent training opportunities and access to advanced facilities. There is enthusiasm for the potential of international athletes training with the US team, which could lead to growth and improvement in the sport. There is a demand for specialized resources such as official speed climbing walls, off-wall training areas, and other equipment specific to elite training.

Impact on the Sport: Many see the NTC as an opportunity to elevate the sport of climbing in the US, potentially increasing its visibility and reputation.

Sustainability Concerns: Some respondents mention the importance of the NTC being sustainable and serving the interests of the broader climbing community in the long term.

Transparency and Communication: Many respondents express the need for transparency in the NTC's planning and operations. Some respondents appreciate being included in discussions about the NTC and want local gyms and stakeholders to be involved in the planning process.