USA Climbing Routesetting Level Prerequisites

The purpose of this system is to increase the quality of routesetting across USA Climbing and help to ensure adequate preparation for routesetters to progress to the next step in the routesetting program.

This pathway is not intended to be a framework for commercial routesetting. It was intended to be a framework for routesetters to develop and work at Regional, Divisional and National events.

Note: The forerunning ranges listed are a minimum that the USA Climbing Routesetting Committee-with consultation from Chief Routesetters (CRS)-has determined are requisite for the level. This means that the setter should be able to forerun effectively at that level for the duration of the competition setting days. This means efficiently forerun the routes/boulders with enough understanding of the level to make informed decisions in the forerunning process.

All fields must be completed prior to routesetters applying for next step in the RCCP system

**Beginning with the 2026 season, USA Climbing may, in rare cases, grant exceptions to certification requirements for individuals whose experience, expertise, and contributions advance the sport and support the organization's mission.*

L1 Prereq

- Minimum 6 months commercial routesetting experience (at least 3 days/week)
- Ability to set routes on a rope, and boulders via a ladder
- Ability to forerun 5.12 and V4

L1 Certification

L2 Prereq (the below must be satisfied to apply to L2 clinics)

- L1 Certification
- Been assistant routesetter for at least 6 USA Climbing Sanctioned Events (QE, Regional or Divisional)
- Preference given to those with Chief Routesetter (CRS) experience
- Ability to forerun 5.12+ and V6

L2 Certification

L3 Prereq (the below must be satisfied to apply for Divisional Internships)

- L2 Certification
- Been assistant routesetter for at least 4 Regional or Divisional Championship events
- Been CRS for at least 6 QE
    - Endorsements
        - Achieved following 2nd internship with favorable reviews from CRS of internship experience
- Ability to forerun 5.13 and V7

L3 Certification, able to apply to National Apprenticeships

L4 Prereq

- L3 Certification
- CRS or Assistant Routesetter for at least 6 Regional or Divisional Championship events
- CRS for at least 2 Regional Championship events
- Complete 3 National Apprenticeships
- Ability to forerun 5.13+ and V9

L4 Certification, able to apply for National Assistantships

Endorsements gained after completing a National Assistantship in that discipline, not upon gaining L4

L5 Prereq

- L4 with both endorsements
- CRS for at least 6 Regional or Divisional events
- CRS for at least 4 Regional or Divisional events outside of "home" region
- Assistant Routesetter for at least 10 National Championships/National Events
    - Nationals, Team Trials, Youth Nationals, Collegiate Nationals, NACS Events
    - Events do not expire over time
- Ability to forerun 5.14 and V9+

Note:

- Completion of the prerequisites only allows for a setter to apply to the next step in the Routesetting Certification Program. It is not a guarantee of any kind that a setter will be selected.