



Duluth Climbing & Fitness Co-op: Call for Volunteers

Help Us Create a Home Base for Northland Climbers!

For a while, Duluth climbers have been craving a better facility to climb, train, and connect with other members of the climbing community. Now we're on our way to making that happen! In August, a group of us got together and started to organize our ideas to make this dream a reality. We've contacted a building owner and are close to signing a contract!

Our Mission

Duluth Climbing and Fitness Co-op is a member owned bouldering gym. Our mission is to create an inclusive indoor climbing space that promotes health, community growth, and skill improvement. Members will be encouraged to participate in all aspects of the gym, as well as supported in creating routes, teaching courses, and starting clubs. The Co-op's fundamental goal is inclusivity.

About the Space

The building currently identified is located at 214 E 1st Street. This building has original wood posts and beams, a historic horse stall, and tons of space to make our bouldering gym work. There is a loft near the entrance, where there will be a space to hang out when you're done climbing, and can double as a meeting area for clubs, groups, or presenters. There's also a loft above the horse stall, which will be the setter's cave/administrative space. The horse stall will be converted into a yoga studio/free weight area. The second floor of the building is being looked at by another tenant.



Call for Volunteers

Now we need your help. The space, although big and full of potential, is also full of years of stuff. In order to get this space up and running as a gym, we will need a large group of volunteers to help us clean up this space. The building owner is going to rent a semi-truck trailer, and we will be responsible for loading up everything into the trailer. All the "Stuff" will be transported down to an old school building in Sandstone, MN, where we will then need to UNLOAD everything at the set location. This is going to take a lot of work, and we won't be able to do it without your help.

Work trade for rent is available and although the details are not finalized, this is great news. No doubt it will take a significant amount of person-hours to achieve cleaning the space out. But, after all is accomplished, we will have accumulated a whole bunch of rent. This means our space, although a hassle in the beginning, will be EXTREMELY affordable until we get the gym up and running.

Although we cannot guarantee preventing the spread of the virus, we will take COVID-19 appropriate precautions. There will be multiple opportunities to volunteer ranging from heavy lifting, to cleaning, to build out. If you indicate you are interested in receiving 'volunteer opportunity updates' on the form below, you will be contacted about different upcoming workdays. Project details and safety precautions will be developed and announced in the workday invitation. We may need to limit participants for specific times if the work is primarily indoors. We value our community and are committed to safety precautions while taking on this endeavor.

To sign up for the volunteer list, simply fill out the survey below (button).

[DCFC Survey](#)



Photo by Taylor Krosbakken of Paige Orcutt on Socket Wrench at Palisade Head

In next month's newsletter there will be updates on the cleaning operation - volunteer list status, cleaning start date, logistics summary, etc. We will touch on board updates - roles, who's filling them currently, subsequent committees and how to join them. There will be a brief update on the co-op's business status. We are working on mock up designs for the gym, as well as logos. Climb on!

Banner photo by Taylor Krosbakken of the overlook at Section 13

