

Recreational tree climbing opportunities provide more than just fun

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(Photo: Submitted Photo)

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When I was a kid, the best part of my family's annual apple-picking excursion was the chance to climb the trees.

When we visited my grandma's house, my sister and cousins and I would climb their giant pine tree and spend hours among the branches, pretending the tree was our house.

Now that I have kids, they still fondly remember the one time the apple orchard allowed them to climb the trees (Most of the orchards we frequent don't allow it anymore.) And they're anxiously awaiting the day when our tiny maple tree will be big enough for them to climb.

My desire to share the tree-climbing experience with my kids is why I was so excited to hear about [Treetop Explorer](#), a

business based in Waukesha that works with local parks, recreation departments and schools to provide recreational tree-climbing experiences. You can also reserve private tree-climbing experiences for birthday parties, team-building or just for fun.

The organization's owner Curt Andrews, a formally trained arborist, talks about the peace and rejuvenation of the new perspective provided from atop a tree. And, based on how many open tree climbing events are scheduled (from Waukesha to Wauwatosa to Cedarburg), it seems that the benefits of tree-climbing aren't too hard a sell.

At the open climbs, participants are given instructions, fitted into gear and put on ropes. They're then given personal instruction until they reach about five feet above the ground. The climbs are facilitated by Treetop Explorer climbers.

For more information, check out the [Treetop Explorer website](#).