

OVER THE EDGE

RAPPELLER - a person who descends down a nearly vertical face by using a doubled rope that is wrapped around the body and attached to some high point

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THANK YOU for Registering to go **Over the Edge** for United Way of Merced County!

You're officially part of something bold, brave, and unforgettable. On August 30, you'll rappel down the side of the historic Tioga Apartments in the heart of downtown Merced—and it's going to be epic.

But before you gear up and take in that view, there's one important challenge ahead: raising \$1,000 to support local families, youth, and individuals in need. Every dollar you raise stays right here in our community—helping us build a stronger, healthier Merced County.

At United Way of Merced County, your \$1,000 can help:

- Provide access to housing resources for individuals and families facing homelessness.
- Support case managers who help people navigate healthcare and basic needs.
- Deliver mental health and crisis services through our 211 helpline.
- Help families maximize their tax return refund through our Free Taxes program VITA.
- Fund disaster response and long-term recovery support for communities.

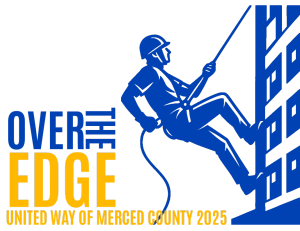
Inside this guide, you'll find everything you need to succeed—from tips to reach (and surpass) your \$1,000 goal, to fundraising incentives, to event day logistics, and more.

Still have questions? Nervous but excited? Want to brainstorm a fundraising idea? We're here for all of it. Reach out to our team anytime—we're cheering you on every step of the way.

We'll see you at the top of Tioga on August 30th.

Thank you for being a fearless champion for our community.

—The United Way of Merced County Team



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FAQ

WHAT IS OVER THE EDGE?

Over The Edge is a unique fundraising event where participants raise money for a chance to rappel down the Tioga Apartments in downtown Merced. United Way of Merced County partners with Over The Edge, which provides the technical setup and certified staff. Participants (“Reppellers” or “Edgers”) raise at least \$1,000 to earn the chance to go Over The Edge.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

To participate, register online with a non-refundable \$75 registration fee (which counts toward your fundraising goal). Once registered, you’ll create a personal fundraising page and begin raising money online and offline. Your rappel spot is guaranteed once you raise at least \$1,000.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Saturday, August 30, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Location: Tioga Apartments, 1715 N St, Merced, CA 95340

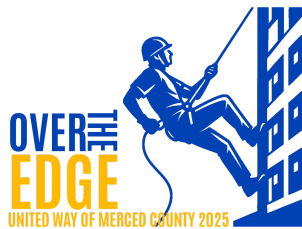
DO I NEED EXPERIENCE TO PARTICIPATE?

Absolutely not! We will show you everything you need to know on the day of the event. After checking in and being fitted with your rappelling gear, all participants will receive mandatory training by an Over The Edge on-site technician. Everyone is able to practice using the gear before going Over The Edge.

WHAT IS THE MINIMUM AGE TO RAPPEL?

Anyone can participate in an Over The Edge event. People in their 80s and 90s rappel. The only restriction is that anyone under the age of 18 is required to have a parent or guardian’s signature on the waiver form, and anyone under the age of 17, a parent or guardian must also attend with them on the day of the rappel.





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IS THERE A WEIGHT REQUIREMENT TO RAPPEL?

Yes, all participants, regardless of their age, must be between 100 and 300 lbs. to safely fit into the harness equipment. The equipment safety standards enforced by Over The Edge require that participants must be between 100 and 300 lbs. in order to safely rappel. *OTE also has a No Fit-No Go policy, which states that if our gear does not fit the participant appropriately and without alteration, we cannot accommodate them to rappel during the event (which may supersede the weight issues).*

WHAT IS THE FUNDRAISING DEADLINE?

Event Day is the official fundraising deadline.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT

WHAT TO EXPECT ON YOUR BIG DAY



1 ARRIVE AT THE EVENT

meet at the registration desk in front of the Tioga one hour before your time.

3 TRAINING RAPPEL

Get comfortable in the harness with a quick training.



4 NAVIGATE THE EDGE

You've got this!
Will you look down?

...AND
DESCEND

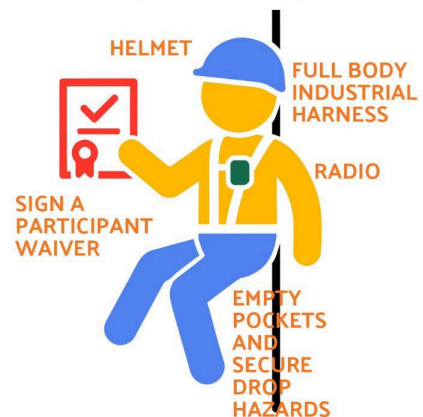
6 THAT'S A WRAP

back to staging to remove gear and retrieve personal belongings. Go have a beer over the Tioga Sequoia and talk



2 HEAD TO STAGING

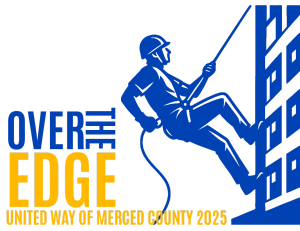
to pick up your rappelling gear



5 TOUCHDOWN

at the landing zone. Some high-fives are in order!!!!





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FUNDRAISING

I DON'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE FUNDRAISING, HOW DO I DO IT?

Thanks to our online fundraising portal, you can easily share your Over the Edge endeavor with friends and family near and far! When you register to go Over the Edge you will be prompted to create your own personal fundraising page. Things that help include a photo of you doing something you enjoy (maybe adventurous) or just a smile! Also, include a brief paragraph explaining why you are so excited to be part of this incredible event. The thrill? The challenge? Conquering fear? Feeding the hungry? Supporting the community where you live and work? There are a million reasons!

Also, after you register, you will be sent an Edger Toolkit to help you with additional fundraising resources and ideas.

ARE DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE?

Yes, all donations are tax deductible. Online donors will receive an email confirmation with the amount of their donation within minutes of their contribution. Donors who donate by check with the Edger's name written in the memo section and includes an address will receive a letter via mail once the donation has been processed. Donations made in cash must be accompanied with the Edger's name so we know who to credit the money to, as well as the name and address of the donor so a letter can be mailed.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT RAISE \$1,000?

Each individual edger must reach the minimum fundraising amount of \$1,000 to go Over the Edge, as that is the only way to secure your spot. And you will! The fundraising process is much easier than you imagine. As soon as you reach the minimum of \$1,000, we will reach out to schedule your rappel time. If you are not at the \$1,000 minimum by August 28th, let us know and we can discuss next steps. We will be working with you every step of the way to make sure that every person who signs up is successful in raising the minimum. We will provide you with fundraising ideas and tips all along the way. Above all, we need to be fair to all our participants. **Please understand that all registration fees and donations are non-refundable. All dollars will support the United Way of Merced County, our RISE partner organizations, and our work in the community.**

(Question - above it reads that only \$75 is kept - now it seems to indicate that all of the funds are non-refundable. Maybe we can look at that, and make it clearer - Jim)



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HOW DO I RAISE ENOUGH MONEY TO GO OVER THE EDGE?



LAUNCH YOUR PAGE

Add a great photo and a short message about why you're going Over The Edge. Plan to post weekly updates and create a few short videos—storytelling goes a long way. Use your page to track progress and make sure you have a way to log offline donations, too.



START WITH YOUR INNER CIRCLE

Reach out to 10 close friends or family members and ask for a gift between \$20–\$50. People who care about you are the most likely to give.



RALLY YOUR WORKPLACE

Ask your coworkers to chip in toward your goal—\$25 from just 10 colleagues gets you a quarter of the way there! Better yet, see if your boss will match what you raise or agree to go Over The Edge with you in a “Toss Your Boss” challenge. It's a great way to build team spirit and raise big support fast.



GET ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Post videos or updates on social media and share your fundraising page link. Ask your wider network to chip in \$10–\$20 and watch the momentum grow!



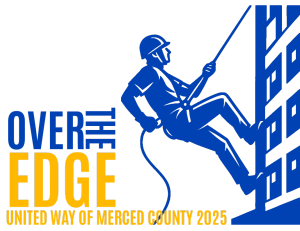
PARTNER WITH A LOCAL BUSINESS

Ask a small business to sponsor your efforts in exchange for a shoutout or logo on your page. Many are happy to support a good cause and gain exposure at the same time.



GO OVER THE EDGE

You've done it! Now get ready for the experience of a lifetime!!!!



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FUNDRAISING OPTIONS

INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISING:

Going solo? Awesome! Once you raise \$1,000, you'll earn your rappel spot and an event shirt to show off your bravery. Hit \$1,500 or more and you'll unlock even more swag. Raise \$2,000+ and you can bring a friend Over The Edge with you — double the thrill, double the fun!

- **\$1,000** — Secures your rappel spot + event shirt.
- **\$1,500** — Includes exclusive swag and promotional items!
- **\$2,000+** — You and a friend can rappel together!

TEAM FUNDRAISING

Want to rally your coworkers, club, or community group? Fundraise together as a team! For every \$1,000 your group raises, someone gets to rappel. Whether it's "Toss Your Boss" or rotating teammates, it's a great way to support a cause and celebrate as a team. Swag included for every Edger!

- Fundraise as a group toward a shared goal
- For every \$1,000 raised, your team earns one rappel slot
- Shirts and swag included for each team member who goes Over The Edge
- Great for "Toss Your Boss" campaigns or group challenges!

IS THERE A DEADLINE FOR FUNDRAISING?

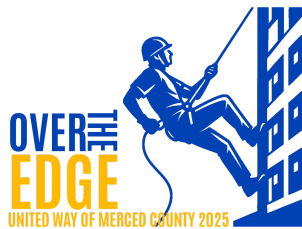
By event day, August 30th.

WHAT IF I RAISE THE MONEY AND DECIDE I NO LONGER WANT TO RAPPEL?

All monies raised are considered a donation to the United Way of Merced County and are nonrefundable. If you do not wish to rappel on event day, you may offer a replacement to rappel in your place, provided appropriate waivers are signed, they have registered on the site, and you have notified United Way staff about the change.

ARE DONATIONS REFUNDABLE IF I DON'T REACH MY FUNDRAISING GOAL?

No, all fees and donations are non-refundable.



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TECHNICAL

IS IT SAFE?

Absolutely! Over The Edge is set up as an industrial worksite and, as a result, is compliant with all federal and state OSHA Fall Protection Standards and OSHA Federal and State Laws. To read more about safety, visit the Over the Edge site for details.

WHO WILL BE SETTING UP THE RAPPEL GEAR, AND WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO THEY HAVE?

All members of the Over the Edge technical team are IRATA and SPRAT certified industrial rope access technicians. They also rely on the help of volunteers from local fire departments, SWAT teams, and AMGA guides to assist with the ropes. Most volunteers have been doing our event for years and/or have extensive training in areas like rope rescue and/or are instructors in rope rescue or climbing.

HOW OLD ARE THE ROPES? WHEN ARE THEY INSPECTED AND BY WHOM?

The Over the Edge technical team regularly orders new ropes. They are inspected by a qualified technical staff at the start and end of each event. During the event, safety checks are performed for each person before they rappel, and periodically throughout the day, the team re-inspects all the rigging.

DO I GET TO PRACTICE BEFORE THE BIG RAPPEL?

Yes! You will go through a training right before your exciting rappel. This practice session will help you get used to the harness, rappel device, and technique for descending the building.

MORE QUESTIONS?

If you have questions not answered here, please reach out to Monica Guerrero at monica@unitedwaymerced.org / (209) 446-5030.