



HEAD ROUTE SETTER (FALL 2026)

ROLE SUMMARY

The Head Routesetter plays a **role in leading** all route setting operations at the UBC Bouldering Centre. This position is responsible for planning, creating, and maintaining high-quality climbing experiences that are safe, progressive, and inclusive for a wide range of users. Through **guidance** of the route setting team, technical expertise, and operational planning, the Head Routesetter ensures consistency in grading, style diversity, and industry best practices. This role is responsible for shaping the overall climbing experience by determining the distribution, style, and progression of climbs across all walls within the facility. As a primary liaison between the Bouldering Centre Coordinator and the Routesetting Team, this position ensures clear communication, alignment on priorities, and effective execution of weekly route setting operations. The Head Route Setter contributes directly to the overall user experience by maintaining engaging and safely constructed climbing routes.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

The Head Route Setter is responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of all climbing routes within the Bouldering Centre. This role involves both hands-on setting and oversight duties, including:

- Plan and maintain a structured weekly route setting schedule, ensuring proper wall coverage and minimal disruption to operations.
- Develop plans in advance and share work effectively between themselves and Route Setters during weekly sets.
- Serve as the primary liaison between the Bouldering Centre Coordinator and the Routesetting team, ensuring alignment of schedules, priorities, and operational needs.
- Work with the Bouldering Centre Coordinator to communicate wall closures and reset schedules.
- Work with the Bouldering Centre Coordinator to determine facility-wide route density, grade distribution, and style variety to accommodate all user levels.
- Set, forerun, and refine climbing routes for quality, safety, and user progression.
- Guide and mentor Routesetters, ensuring adherence to established standards and safe work practices.
- Develop, administer, and maintain route setting SOPs and training standards.
- Conduct wall safety checks and identify hazards or maintenance needs.





- Inspect, maintain, and manage inventory of holds, volumes, and hardware; retire damaged equipment.
- Oversee and perform hold stripping, cleaning, and storage processes.
- Use and enforce proper PPE and safe practices when working at heights and with power tools.
- Set climbs for events and programs on a needs basis.
- Support community setting initiatives, including route approvals and quality control.
- Respond to setting feedback and adjust routes as necessary to maintain user satisfaction and safety.
- Submit maintenance requests and coordinate with facility staff on repairs or infrastructure concerns. Support and attend staff meetings and collaborate with other departments as required.
- Perform additional duties to support efficient and safe facility operations.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

UBC Athletics and Recreation strives to create a healthy, active, and connected community where each person is at their personal best and proud of their UBC experience. The Bouldering Centre contributes to this vision by providing high-quality climbing experiences through safe, innovative, and inclusive facility operations. Route setting plays a key role in attracting and retaining participants, supporting skill progression, and enhancing overall engagement in climbing and recreation.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

This position reports directly to the Bouldering Centre Coordinator. The Head Routesetter works with a high degree of autonomy while aligning with strategic and operational goals set by facility leadership. This role serves as a key point of connection between the Coordinator and the Routesetting Team, requiring regular communication, planning, and coordination to ensure smooth operations. The position involves supervising Routesetters and collaborating closely with staff and instructors, with regular meetings.

QUALIFICATIONS

Ideal candidates are experienced climbers and route setters with strong leadership abilities and a commitment to safety, creativity, and community engagement.





KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

- 2+ years of route setting experience.
 - Able to comfortably flash V7, climbing up to V8/V9.
 - Demonstrated experience mentoring a team.
 - Strong understanding of grading systems, movement, and progression.
 - Ability to plan, manage, and execute route setting schedules and workflows.
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- Knowledge of safe practices, including working at heights and proper PPE use.
 - Experience with tools and equipment used in route setting (e.g., drills, ladders).
 - Strong organizational and inventory management skills.
 - Excellent communication and teamwork abilities.
 - Ability to identify and mitigate safety risks proactively.
 - Physically capable of lifting 50 lbs and performing manual labor for extended periods.
 - Problem-solving skills and ability to adapt quickly in a dynamic environment.

TRAINING & ORIENTATION

The Head Routesetter will receive training and onboarding, including:

- Facility-specific route setting standards and procedures.
- Safety training, including PPE, ladder work, and risk management.
- Emergency procedures and reporting protocols.
- Inventory systems and maintenance workflows.
- Collaboration processes with staff, instructors, and leadership.
- Ongoing professional development in route setting best practices.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit a Cover Letter and Resume. A portfolio of route setting work is recommended (photos or descriptions). Incomplete applications will not be considered.

COMPENSATION

\$25-30 per hour, depending on experience



**START DATE**

Must be free starting the week of September 21st and onwards.

HOURS

About 10-12 hours per week

Please email bouldering.centre@ubc.ca to apply for this position

