

FAQ

Interested in rappelling? Read through the FAQ below for all the information you need to get you started.

Rappelling down the side of a building? Really?

Yes! Sounds crazy, but this event is being done in partnership with Over the Edge, a fundraising organization that has done events like this at buildings around the world.

How will the event address safety precautions in a post-COVID-19 world?

Reduced contact for participants: In coordination with local guidelines at the time of the event, all current CDC guidelines regarding group size will be in place for Over The Edge. GiGi's Playhouse Charlotte is working closely with Over the Edge to develop a detailed plan to execute the event safely should group gatherings and social distancing restrictions remain in place. Some examples of measures to be taken include:

- Groups of 10 people or less in one location
- Floor markers will be used to maintain 6-ft. distance where/as needed per State/Provincial guidelines.
- Only Edgers will be allowed to enter the building – no guests will be allowed to join the Edger on their journey to the top.
- Participants should arrive at their registration time with no early arrivals.
- Participants will be required to sanitize their hands at various times and masks and non-latex gloves will be provided if State/Provincial guidelines require them.
- Participants will be guided from one location to the next with volunteers stationed along the way. Escorts will not enter elevators or walk every step with the Edger through the process like in previous years.
- All Edgers will receive a pair of disposable gloves upon entering the Staging Room, where they receive their rappelling gear.
- All stations and equipment will be disinfected and sprayed with anti-bacterial spray after each use.

What is it like?

This is not your typical rock climbing rappel! You will be wearing a full-body industrial harness and using an industrial descender to go down. You can control your speed to a certain extent. Should you go too fast, the back-up device will engage. Getting your weight off the roof and into the harness is the difficult part for most people. You will have an opportunity to practice your technique during training, and a technician will guide you through these first few steps. Once you are over the edge, you will have a radio to communicate with your technician. Don't forget to stop and take in the view!

How many people can do the rappel?

We are estimating there will only be over 90 spots available for this Over the Edge event.

Do I have to have prior rappelling experience?

Absolutely no experience is necessary, and we provide all the training you need to go “Over the Edge.”

Can anyone do it?

Weight requirement is between 100 and 300 pounds and anyone under 18 years old will be required to have a parent/ legal guardian sign a legal waiver. We can accommodate almost all special needs; however, we will need to know the details of the needs to properly prepare. Please contact us at sherbert@gigisplayhouse.org to plan your special needs rappel. This event is handicapped accessible.

How long will it take?

It usually takes between 10 to 15 minutes to do the actual rappel but the full experience will take 60-90 minutes for training, getting suited up, and the inevitable paperwork.

Is it hard?

Rappelling can take more effort than some people expect, and you may find that your hands or arms get tired. You can stop to rest or switch hands if you need a break. If you find yourself unable to do it on your own, a technician can lower you to the ground.

Can I go over with a friend?

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that you will be able to go over the edge side-by-side with your friend; however, we can schedule you close to each other. Please reach out to sherbert@gigisplayhouse.org to let us know you like to be scheduled around the same time. We will absolutely do our best to schedule your rappel together, however we can't guarantee.

What should I wear?

You're going to be walking down the side of a building so wear good shoes. Well-fitting sneakers, light hiking boots, or other soft-soled shoes are recommended. No sandals, slip-on shoes, slippers, flip flops, high heels, or steel toed boots will be allowed. Wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Athletic pants, tights and jeans are suitable. The harness goes around your legs, waist, and shoulders, so it is best to avoid anything too bulky. Shirts should be comfortable and without draw cords. Long hair should be tied back. You will be required to leave items like keys, cell phones, or jewelry that can get caught on things with a staff member on-site. You will be given a pair of leather gloves and a helmet on arrival. You will be given a pair of gloves and a helmet to wear while you rappel. You will be required to leave droppable items like keys and cell phones or jewelry that can get caught on things at registration.

Can I wear a costume?

We would love for you to dress up to go “Over the Edge!” All costumes will need to meet the same standards as listed above. Capes will have to be approved by the Site Safety Supervisor for the main rappel. If you have a question about what alterations your costume will need,

please email pictures of your costume three weeks prior to the event to lmaners@gigisplayhouse.org so we can check it out and suggest alterations if need be.

Can my friends and family watch?

Absolutely! We will have a Landing Zone experience on the side of the building. It'll have a great view to take additional videos and pictures of everyone coming down the side of the building. Live streaming will also be available. Only registered Edgers are allowed in the staging areas and on the roof.

How do I secure a position to go “Over the Edge”?

You must raise a minimum of \$1,000 for GiGi’s Playhouse Charlotte during the fundraising period. We will provide you with all of the support you need to reach your fundraising goal including, access to literature about the event and GiGi’s Playhouse Charlotte, an informative strategy guide on how to maximize your donations, sample donation request letters, and more!

Should I raise more than \$1,000?

Yes, of course!

How do I raise money?

We will provide you with all of the support you need to reach your fundraising goal including access to literature about the event and GiGi’s Playhouse Charlotte, sample donation request letters, and more! All of that material will be available on our Fundraising Tips page to get you started. Once registered, we will work with you to go “Over the Edge.”

What happens if I do not raise at least \$1,000?

If the minimum fundraising goal of \$1,000 is not reached by October 18, 2020, you may provide a credit card to cover the balance to secure your spot to go Over The Edge. All funds raised are tax deductible donations GiGi’s Playhouse Charlotte and are nonrefundable if the minimum fundraising goal is not met.

How do I raise enough money to go Over The Edge?

You can collect online credit/debit card donations by sending your friends and family a link to your personal fundraising page after reserving your spot to go Over The Edge.

What if someone wants to write a check or donate cash?

Checks should be made payable to GiGi’s Playhouse Charlotte with Over The Edge and your name written in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to 9101 Kings Parade Blvd., Suite 102, Charlotte, NC 28273. Please do not mail cash. If you receive a cash donation, please use a cashier’s check to submit those funds. Please keep in mind these donations will take longer to process and be reflected on your personal fundraising page.

Are donations tax deductible? Yes, all donations are tax deductible. Each donor will automatically receive a receipt confirming their electronic donation.

For more information please contact Imaners@gigisplayhouse.org.