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Codependent Independence: Community and Individuality Among American Recreational Sport Climbers

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Poster Presentation P79

**CODEPENDENT INDEPENDENCE: COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUALITY AMONG
AMERICAN RECREATIONAL SPORT CLIMBERS**

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This poster presentation illustrates the importance of teamwork and personal achievement within the Midwestern American rock climbing community. Using photographs to represent data gathered from participant-observation and ethnographic interviews, the presentation explores issues of competition and cooperation among rock climbers. It also reveals the research consultants' views on recent changes in the sport, especially with regards to the emergence of numerous indoor climbing gyms throughout the United States. The poster is designed to portray the attitudes and attributes that unite advanced rock climbers as a distinct community, while also revealing the differences between Midwestern American climbers and those from other areas of the world.