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PUSHING THE LIMITS: A VISUAL ETHNOGRAPHIC EXPLORATION OF INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING

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Through the use of photographs and collaborative ethnographic research methods this poster presentation raises awareness about the multi-faceted nature of indoor rock climbing and the Upper Limits climbing community. Utilizing participant-observation, formal interviews, and informal interaction, I worked collaboratively with climbers at Upper Limits to create both text and images that define the way in which these climbers create a sense of community. The aim of this poster is to highlight the physical, mental, and social aspects of indoor climbing, which are central to a climber’s identity. This research allows the climbers to showcase their own abilities and experiences in an effort to promote the benefits of indoor climbing to the public.