

## **I already have 5 years of climbing and chainsaw experience. Why do I need to take the pre-requisites for rigging?**

While there is a short answer to this question, we feel the answer and our reasons are important enough to create this lengthy answer.

### **Pre-Requisites**

We have carefully considered (and answered) this question for many years. While we can appreciate that you have many years of experience, when it comes to pre-requisites, several things factor into our pre-requisite requirements:

Keeping up with the latest tools and techniques – and actually using them on the job can be a challenging task, even for an experienced arborist. From knowing the trees to knowing the ropes, there are many things for a tree worker to learn in order to become familiar with safety and best practices

While you may have learned the how of many techniques, you may have not learned the ‘why’ and learning the why can oftentimes be the bridge to working more safely and making the best choices. And that is our first priority – that you work safer, not to mention more skillfully and productively. When you understand the concepts behind a technique, you gain valuable information to move you to the next level.

Arborists tend to work in semi-isolation and oftentimes without the benefit of a formal training experience and interaction with their peers. 99% percent of the time, students that ask this question before enrolling, come back to us afterwards telling us that they “did not know what they did not know”.

Here are some excerpts from student evaluation forms following training, that says it best: (link to testimony page)

*....“after 25 years in tree care, I’m learning how much I still have to learn”*

*...me the guy, been there, done that, was humbled at how much I learned.*

*.....“Having started logging back in 1973 under what I now call prehistoric conditions, has made me acutely aware of the pitfalls associated by teaching ones-self and learning the hard way. ArborMaster’s programs have given me a new prospective concerning the safe dismantling and removal of one of our greatest resources”...*

*.....“ The instructor really connected with his audience of experienced tree workers! Have never seen these guys this impressed with a presentation and they universally went home with new ideas and knowledge to apply to their real world challenges”*

*“ I am finally taking the time to send a sincere thank you to your organization. I have to admit I was more than a bit skeptical about bringing in “professionals” to train my employees, especially the ones with years of experience. As it turns out they were the ones that got the most out of the training”*

*....“best experience I have had in the tree care industry”*

Even for an experienced arborist, taking a 'time out' to refine your skills is well worth it – an opportunity in a non-production mode, oftentimes leads to learning better, faster and easier ways from your current methods, or a realization, that hey, this is the best industry standard and with that, an assurance that you are making good choices with your current work practices.

ArborMaster takes its responsibilities seriously. Because climbing and chainsaw techniques can vary widely, we have to be sure before students move to more advanced courses that they ALL are on the same page. Otherwise, we put everyone at risk.

You'll find that in speaking with some of our ArborMaster instructors, many of them had years of experience before they ever took their first L1 ArborMaster course. They came to enhance their current abilities and to learn more ways to be safe and productive.

And lastly, if it was financially and logistically feasible, we would consider the option of evaluation and testing to determine the skill level of participants. While this may be an option in a private, in-house scenario, it is cost prohibitive to an open enrollment student to pay for this.

