

Proposal for “Climber” Emoji

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Selection Factors

Compatibility

Expected usage level

Image distinctiveness

Completeness

Possible Factors for Exclusion

Is it overly specific?

Is it open-ended?

Is it already representable

Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

Is it transient?

Category



Figure 1 - Climber with background



Figure 2 - Climber without background

Introduction

Sport climbing is becoming more popular every year and will even appear in the Olympic Games in 2020. This is a proposal to include a climber emoji in unicode to allow climbers and spectators to express themselves and to fill a gap in the emoji sports section.

Selection Factors

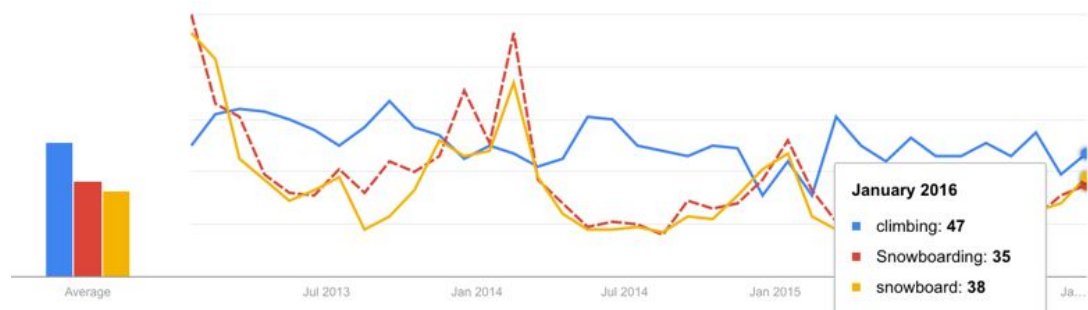
Compatibility

Climbing is major sport, practised by millions of people around the world (25M in 2015¹). However, there is no climber emoji for these people to express themselves. The group of climbers and climbing enthusiasts will probably grow when climbing [will be an Olympic sport in 2020](#). The olympic committee even [tweeted](#) about extra hashflags² for climbing and the four other newly added sports. Those hashflags are nice for twitter, but we need a real dedicated climber emoji that everybody in the world can use!

Expected usage level

Frequency - Sport

- Worldwide, millions of people are climbing in various disciplines. The most popular variants are: sport climbing, bouldering, speed climbing and trad climbing.
- For a lot of climbers, climbing is not only their sport but also their lifestyle. They communicate a lot about climbing with others and need this emoji.
- All disciplines are practiced both indoor and outdoor by tons of people.
 - Examples:
 - [List of indoor climbing gyms in the US](#)
 - [Map of more than 20k outdoor climbing crags](#)
 - [List of pages about climbing on wikipedia](#)
- Climbing will probably reach a whole new audience at the Olympic Games in 2020
- Some relative search tag results³:
 - [climbing vs skating](#): fluctuating, current 38 vs 26 = 146%.
 - [climbing vs snowboarding](#): fluctuating, current 23 vs 6 = 134%.



- Google Image search results:

¹ http://www.ifsc-climbing.org/images/media-centre/press-releases/2015_IFSC_Tokyo2020.pdf

² Twitter [automatically adds](#) small (non emoji) images to certain hashtags.

³ All search results are from July 2016

- 171 M results for Climbing
- 86.3 M results for Skating
- 21.4 M results for Golfing
- 70.9 M results for Badminton
- Instagram results
 - [Climbing](#): 3.1M
 - [Surfing](#): 5.1 M

Frequency - Other

- Besides climbing as a sport, climbing is also done by other people. Think about construction workers, rescue workers, military, etc. All these people could use this emoji to express themselves.

Multiple usages - Sport

- Used by climbers to tell about their own activity
- Used by supporters to tell about the competition they've watched
- Used by fellow climbers/spectators to tell about a great climb they saw others do

Multiple usages - Other

- To tell others about their work / activity / plans

Image distinctiveness

There are a few things that need to be taken into consideration when designing the climber emoji.

- Rope or no rope
 - A rope is not used within all forms of climbing. We think a climber without a rope would be the most distinctive and would be usable by the widest range of climbers from bouldering to speed-climbing.
- To show the rock or not
 - We think both options look great as an emoji and we think this decision is best made by the unicode committee depending on their view on the sport emoji's. See the figures on the first page for a comparison between the two options.
- [Chalk bag](#) or not
 - Most climbers use a chalk bag. The use of a chalkbag would make the image more distinctive, but it would at the same time exclude usages where no chalk bag is desired.
- [Helmet](#) or not
 - A helmet is used by a lot of climbers, but not in all disciplines. For example, it's not considered appropriate to wear a helmet while bouldering. Although a picture of a climber with a helmet would make the emoji a little more distinctive, it would also limit it's usage a bit.

Completeness

An emoji of a climber will fill a gap in the sports section of the emoji's.

Possible Factors for Exclusion

Is it overly specific?

This emoji would not be too specific if we design the emoji so it can be used by a wide range of climbers. The emoji should be usable for every climbing discipline and other kind of climbers as well.

Is it open-ended?

In the current emoji set there is no other emoji present by which a climber can express the action of climbing in a conversation.

Is it already representable

We think it is not. The combination of emoji that would come closest to the principle of climbing would be something like this: 🏃 🏔️ 'someone running up a mountain' We consider this not to be specific enough and it does not properly reflect the act of climbing., Besides, it could easily be misinterpreted and does not serve all possible usages.

Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

This is not a logo, brand, etc.

Is it transient?

Nope. People have been climbing for more than 2000 years. Climbing is here to stay!

Category

We think the emoji should be placed in the sports category.