



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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May 13, 2015

**OPENING OF THE IJAMS CRAG - AN OUTDOOR CLIMBING AREA**

On Friday, May 22, 2015 Ijams Nature Center will open The Ijams Crag with a ribbon-cutting ceremony beginning at 4:30 pm. The Ijams Crag will offer an outdoor climbing area for both the beginning and experienced climber. The site features a cliff line with moderate grades, solid rock, reliable access, and close proximity to Downtown Knoxville. The Ijams Crag has been created by some of Knoxville's most experienced climbers including Benjy Darnell, Kelly Brown, Robert Blackwell, Sam Adams and Charlie VanAnda. This new outdoor experience would not have been possible without the support of River Sports Outfitters, Patagonia, Lowes and the City of Knoxville.

This event will unveil the first 10 climbing routes and give a glimpse of 20 more routes that are currently in development and which will open soon.

Knoxville is home to a vibrant community of rock climbers. Countless enthusiasts start their climbing career at local area climbing gyms, but beginners have always faced one major obstacle when trying to break into the realm of outdoor climbing: Knoxville has no good beginner outdoor climbing. Until now, the closest outdoor climbing area has been located at the Obed Wild and Scenic River which is an hour from Knoxville.

To celebrate the opening of Knoxville's first outdoor climbing area, please join us at the entrance to Ijams on Aberdeen Lane. Parking will be limited, and carpooling is encouraged. Limited shuttles will also be available to transport people who are unable to make the roughly half mile hike on rocky terrain to the site of the climbing area. Please arrive by 4:00 p.m. for the opening ceremony at 4:30 p.m.

Directions from Ijams/Island Home Ave: Turn left onto Gilbert Lane (opposite Island Home Baptist Church), Turn Left on Belvedere Ave and Turn Right onto Aberdeen Lane. Continue at right fork on Aberdeen.)

**About Us:** Ijams Nature Center is a 300-acre urban greenspace encouraging stewardship of the natural world by providing engaging outdoor experiences.

**For more information, please contact Mary Thom Adams at 865-577-4717, ext. 117 or email [mtadams@ijams.org](mailto:mtadams@ijams.org).**

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