



# GMS Climb Classification System

## Climbing Degrees

**Class I (1) Easy**  
Trail hiking.

**Class II (2) Moderate**  
Low angle scrambling.

**Class III (3) Difficult**  
High angle scrambling, moderate cliffs, considerable exertion. Rope might be necessary for beginners.

**Class IV (4) Very Difficult**  
Higher angle cliffs, increased ex-

posure. Belaying rope required.

**Class V (5) Severe**  
High angle cliffs, severe exposure. Protection placed by leader. Technical climbing experience necessary.

**Class VI (6) Extremely Severe**  
Direct aid technical climbing. Overall rating in this classification reserved for only the biggest technical climbs, (example: NF = Mt. Siyeh; EF = Mt. Gould).

**Example**

West Face: Going-to-the-Sun Mountain III(4)MM

**overall rating**

**most difficult pitch or section**

**round-trip distance**

**elevation gain**

### Route Symbols

Face	F	North	N	Alpine	(AL)
Slope	S	South	S	Traverse	T
Ridge	R	East	E	Snow/ice likely(I)	
Couloir	C	West	W	Exploratory	(X)

### Distances

1 to 6 miles	S
6 to 12 miles	M
12 to 20 miles	L

### Elevation Gain

Less than 3,000 ft.	S
3,000 ft. to 4,500 ft.	M
Over 4,500 ft.	L