

Disabled teenager scales rock wall

Being deaf was no handicap to girl who climbed the 9-m-high wall twice in ST's school-holiday programme

WHERE there's a will, there's a way.



Being deaf and a novice did not prevent 14-year-old Angeline Chen from scaling a 9-m-high rock wall - not once but twice.

'I was a bit afraid at first,' said the teenager, who went deaf when she was three years old.

She attended the rock-climbing activity, which is part of The Straits Times school-holiday programme, on Wednesday.

Like most of the 50 participants, she had never done rock climbing before.

But she overcame her fear, cheered on by the others.

Cheered on by her peers, inexperienced Angeline overcame her fears to reach the top in this rock-climbing exercise at Safra, Toa Payoh. --JOHN COSGROVE

With the help of a hearing aid, the Secondary 2 student from St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School, received tips from her instructor as she was climbing.

The coach of the National Singapore Mountaineering Federation (SMF), Mr Amir Moostafa, 37, led the one-day rock-climbing course at Safra, in Toa Payoh.

He was also the coach for a similar course in June.

'There are more students participating, and most of them are better climbers too.

'They must, however, learn to use the correct muscles and their legs to push themselves up,' he said.

Said Terence Tan, 13, whose fingers hurt terribly after his climb: 'It looks easier when other people are doing it.'

The best climber, Yeo Ke Sheng, 17, won a Z-Station 1 e-karaoke player.

He is a member of the Outdoor Activities Club at Anderson Junior College.

The rock-climbing course was conducted by SMF and the Singapore Sports Council.

All participants received a Nike T-shirt and lunch provided by Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Other activities of the ST school-holiday programme, which will be held until the end of next month, include sailing, snorkelling and learning robotics.

Interested teenagers can sign up at straitstimes.asia1.com.sg

