

Scouting Risk Assessment – Pioneering



Date of risk assessment	1/7/25	Name/Role of who undertook this risk assessment	Ben Shirvill
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Earleywood Scout Campsite

Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Risk – the chance of it happening.	Young people, Leaders, Visitors.	Controls – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example - you might use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way the activity is carried out.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change it...or even stop it! This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Handling equipment – strains and so on.	Everyone involved in the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan the structure before you start building and follow it. • Check that the project you're planning and the type of equipment you'll use are appropriate for the age of the young people. • Assess and advise young people carrying, lifting and storing pioneering equipment. Make sure that young people know how to carry, lift, and store pioneering equipment. • Check equipment before use. Report any damaged or faulty equipment. • Make PPE available if the activity leader thinks it's necessary. Using thick gloves while handling poles is good practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defective equipment to be reported to Earleywood Activities Director immediately
Construction and dismantling – fingers, feet, or other body parts trapped between or under poles. Pioneering equipment, using tools, natural materials, ropes – personal injuries, rope burns, cuts, bruises, abrasions, puncture wounds, eye damage.	Everyone involved in the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader in charge to ensure the activity lead is competent. • Give all participants appropriate training. • Give everyone participating in the activity a safety briefing. • Supervise young people at all times. • Consider participants' personal circumstances and any reasonable adjustments you may need to make. 	

Additional information can be found in the **Safety Checklist for Leaders** and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

HQ Template Published June 2020

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Structures collapsing – crush injuries, lacerations, and fractures. Impact with pioneering equipment – crush injuries, lacerations, and fractures.	Everyone involved in the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closely supervise structures while they're being constructed and dismantled. • Check how the weather affects structures, for example, wet ropes causing stretching or tightening. • Supervise young people and check they're using the correct knots and lashings. • Limit the load you put on the structure. • Undo the main supports last when you're dismantling a structure. 	
Fall from height – personal injuries, lacerations, and fractures.	Everyone involved in the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully brief all participants who will be above one meter off the ground. • Use spotters when participants are off the ground. 	
Medical Incident/Injury	Everyone involved in the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader in charge to have readily available an adult with current mandatory module 10 first aid training. • Leader in charge to have first aid kit. • Leader in charge/activity instructor to be aware of where nearest first aid kit is located (Scout Centre kitchen and Rowney Building kitchen). • Leader in charge to have available and be aware of all medical/allergy conditions and reasonable adjustments of everyone at risk. • Participants with reasonable adjustments to be located nearest the activity instructor and if necessary have a competent person supporting them • Leader in charge to be aware of Earleywood incident action plan and follow it. • Leader in charge establish procedures in the event of an injury at beginning of session. • Leader in charge to maintain young person/adult ratio 	
Slips, Trips, Cuts, Bites & Falls	Everyone involved in the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader in charge to survey the activity area before starting to prevent participants having an incident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mark locations of obstacles in the ground ○ Remove loose debris to a safe location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodical checks / Be aware of any objects on the ground and remove trip hazards.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mark locations of insect infestations and nests ○ Mark locations of low lying stinging or scratchy plants ○ Identify boundaries. ● Wear appropriate footwear and shoelaces to be tied. ● Walk, no running ● Ensure the activity area is suitable for use, kept clear and tidy 	
Overcrowding and disorderly behaviour	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leader in charge/activity instructor rules/instructions explained to participants during briefing. ● Leader in charge to remain with the group. ● Activity instructor to stop activity immediately if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are too many participants using the activity ○ The participants behaviour is unacceptable or unruly ○ No leader is present from the participants group ○ Consider safety of participants is at risk ● Leader in charge to resolve the issue to the satisfaction of the activity instructor before the activity starts again. 	
Animal Encounter – Wild/Domestic	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do not approach animal. ● Do not encourage animal to approach you. ● Maintain safe distance between you and the animal. ● Leader in charge to scare away the animal without causing physical harm. 	
Animal Faeces	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leader in charge to survey the activity area before starting, remove and dispose of animal faeces. ● Any animal faeces identified while participating in the activity, pause activity and Leader in charge to remove and dispose of animal faeces. 	
Weather Conditions & Environment	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bring clothing and equipment appropriate to the weather conditions. ● In event of inclement weather, the activity instructor may cancel or postpone the activity, in the meanwhile Leader in charge to find a point of safety. ● In hot weather ensure adequate hydration and self-administration of sun protection. ● Use torches if dark. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear close toed footwear (i.e. no sandals/ flip flops, etc) • Turn on activity flood lighting as appropriate 	
Missing Persons Lost individual in distress	Everyone involved in the session.	Leader in charge to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take regular HEAD COUNTS • Take register before activity starts. • Have In-Touch arrangements accessible. • Check mobile phone connectivity is available. 	
Unauthorised Access Equipment unattended Theft Injury	Everyone involved in the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pioneering poles to be stored securely in the racks whilst not in use. • Leader in charge to bring their own ropes and inspect them to ensure safe to use • Participants must never be left alone with equipment. 	

Checked by		Name: Ben Shirvill Role: Activity Director Date: 1/7/25	
Approved by		Name: Derek Salter Role: Health & Safety Director Date: 1/7/25	
Version Control	Original Date: 1/7/25	Whats changed?	
	Revision Date		
	Revision Date		

Date	Who	Feedback	Comments
21/4/25	D Salter	Source reference material	https://paccarscoutcamp.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Pioneering.pdf

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