

Scouting Risk Assessment – Pioneering



Date of risk assessment	6/3/26	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?
<p>Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Risk – the chance of it happening.</p>	<p>Young people, Leaders, Visitors.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Handling equipment – strains and so on.</p>	<p>Everyone involved in the session</p>	<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
<p>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.</p>	<p>Everyone involved in the session</p>	<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

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<p>Structures collapsing – crush injuries, lacerations, and fractures. Impact with pioneering equipment – crush injuries, lacerations, and fractures.</p>	<p>Everyone involved in the session</p>	<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. 	
<p>Fall from height – personal injuries, lacerations, and fractures.</p>	<p>Everyone involved in the session</p>	<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. 	
<p>Medical Incident/Injury</p>	<p>Everyone involved in the session</p>	<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 	
<p>Slips, Trips, Cuts, Bites & Falls</p>	<p>Everyone involved in the session</p>	<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 6 th March 2026		Annual review
	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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