

Risk assessment - Pioneering

Name of activity, event, and location	1 st Anytown Scout Group – pioneering Remember – this is just a starting point for you to assess the risk of your event and you will need add or take away hazards & controls according to your own findings.	Date of risk assessment	1 March 2023	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Leader one (working with others)
		Date of next review	1 March 2024 (or each term or when a significant change occurs)		

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Nature of terrain, slips, trips, and falls – personal injuries, sprains, and strains.	All participants	Choose an area with suitable terrain for the build and check for natural hazards in the build area. Activity to be undertaken during daylight hours only All participants to be checked for suitable footwear and attire for nature of activity	
Weather – injury from slipping on wet equipment, illness from exposure to extreme conditions, collapse or excess movement of structure due to high winds	All participants Spectators	Leader in charge to check weather forecast before session and during it. Session to be postponed if weather is inappropriate Structure to be left safe and non-accessible (eg-roped off) or taken down if adverse weather prevails Monitor how the weather affects structures, for example, wet ropes causing stretching or tightening.	
Handling equipment – injuries including sprains and muscle strains Splinters and blisters	All Participants	YP and adult helpers briefed and assessed on safe techniques Lifting and Carrying Scouts Plan the structure before you start building. Follow the plan. Check that the project you're planning and the type of equipment you'll use are appropriate for the age of the young people. Continue to monitor YP throughout activity to ensure appropriate techniques are used Make PPE available if the activity leader thinks it's necessary. Using thick gloves while handling poles is good practice.	

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for leaders and at scouts.org.uk/safety

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<p>Construction and dismantling –fingers, feet, or other body parts trapped between or under poles.</p> <p>Pioneering equipment, using tools, natural materials, ropes – personal injuries, rope burns, cuts, bruises, abrasions, puncture wounds, eye damage.</p>	<p>All Participants</p>	<p>Leader in charge to be competent and experienced or to appoint a suitable person to take the lead.</p> <p>Give all participants appropriate training, practice knots and lashes beforehand</p> <p>Give everyone participating in the activity a safety briefing.</p> <p>Supervise and monitor skills of young people at all times. Do not ask individual YP to do tasks they are not yet capable of.</p> <p>Work in small teams to enable skills sharing</p> <p>Consider participants' individual needs and any reasonable adjustments you may need to make.</p> <p>Check equipment before use. Reject and report any damaged or faulty equipment.</p>	
<p>Structures collapsing – crush injuries, lacerations, and fractures.</p> <p>Impact with pioneering equipment – crush injuries, lacerations, and fractures.</p>	<p>All Participants Spectators</p>	<p>Closely supervise structures while they're being constructed and dismantled. Appoint an adult as observer.</p> <p>Supervise young people and check they're using the correct knots and lashings.</p> <p>Limit the load you put on the structure.</p> <p>Access to a climbing structure to be supervised at all times by a competent person.</p> <p>Undo the main supports last when you're dismantling a structure.</p>	
<p>Fall from height – personal injuries, lacerations, and fractures.</p>		<p>Fully brief all participants who will be above one meter off the ground.</p> <p>Use spotters when participants are off the ground.</p> <p>Structure to be regularly checked for continued integrity</p>	
<p>Incidents – exacerbation of injury or increased danger due to poor response</p>		<p>Make sure a qualified first aider is present throughout the activity.</p> <p>Make sure a first aid kit is on site during the activity.</p> <p>Adult helpers to be briefed on correct response to emergency/ first aid situations. Purple cards to hand</p> <p>Have an emergency signal (eg 3 whistle blasts) to indicate need to clear structure</p>	
<p>What other Hazards arising do you need to consider?</p> <p>Never be afraid to stop an activity if it is becoming unsafe!</p> <p>This Risk Assessment does not cover activities (eg: games, free time, open fires, outings, contingency plans), which will each require their own. You may also need to consider any specific individual needs.</p>			

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Check [Activities A-Z](#) to see if any need Permits or qualifications to run them.

There are [Example risk assessments](#) to use as a starting point

Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop half way through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved as with all activities.