

Scouting Risk Assessment – Climbing and Abseil



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| Date of risk assessment | 26/02/2023 | 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? |
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| <i>Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Risk – the chance of it happening.</i> | <i>Young people, Leaders, Visitors.</i> | <i>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.</i> | <i>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.</i> |
| Activity instructors and Equipment | Activity instructors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity instructors leading and running a session, to have passed the County Climbing Training and have a Scout Permit relevant to the activity they are running. Unless they possess a national climbing qualification - CWA/RCI or higher. Activities carried out in accordance with Scout Association Policy Organisation and Rules (POR) Earleywood's equipment is only to be used by Earleywood's approved activity instructors. Any other equipment may be used at your risk (i.e. equipment is compliant and in date) | <p>The wall is only to be used when qualified adult supervision is present.</p> <p>Activity instructors to check all equipment before each session.</p> |
| Within the compound and equipment. | All | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compound checked before/during use. All entry points secured when activity is not supervised, climbing tower area is fenced off and gate to be locked when tower is not in use. No unauthorized entry signs in place. Equipment is kept in a secure place whenever tower is unsupervised. Regularly remind activity instructors on the importance of ensuring area is secure. At changeover of groups, area never to be left unsupervised or unsecured. Helmets to be used by all participants/spectators inside the compound | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group size in guidance with booking system – 12 participants per hour. Activity instructors and rope leaders to take a minimum half hour break after a 2-hour session. |
| Failure of Structure and Equipment | All | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural annual inspection of the tower by competent person. A 6-monthly inspection of equipment by competent person. Before and during use, inspection done by activity instructor. Earleywood's equipment, harnesses, ropes, helmets will be checked by a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defects will be reported to Earleywood Activities Director immediately and the activity/equipment taken out of use |

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](https://scouts.org.uk/safety) and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

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| | | <p>competent person on a regular basis as advised by the manufacturer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of checks will be retained. • Harnesses which are frayed, have split webbing, split stitching or any other damage will be taken out of use immediately. • Frayed/damaged ropes will be taken out of use immediately. • Helmets showing signs of damage will be taken out of use immediately. • Secure anchorage points • Foot & hand holds of commercial design & construction securely fixed to tower | <p>immediately and destroyed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All holds used are genuine climbing holds sold fit for purpose. Climbing holds are known to spin and is a known risk. Any climbing holds found loose are reported and tightened at the earliest opportunity. |
| Entanglement | Activity instructor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all long hair is tied up/back as appropriate. • Non-loose clothing/neckers to be worn, • Remove jewellery which impede the activity and necklaces tucked inside • Harness fitted securely with no loose straps. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stock of hair bands in climbing store. |
| Slips, Trips, Cuts & Falls Abrasions etc from climbing equipment etc | Everyone involved in the session | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean muddy footwear • Be aware of ropes on the ground when climbing taking place. | |
| Falling from tower | Activity instructors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed rigid full guardrail system on all edges; • Handrails on both sides of stairs; • All but last flight of stairs in accordance with BS for stairs • Slip resistance of steel mesh used for all decking etc. • 'Toeboards' on all outside and most inside edges. | |
| 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. | |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 ○ 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodical checks / Be aware of any objects on the ground and remove trip hazards. |
| 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. | |

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| 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. • 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 Activity area left unattended Equipment unattended Theft Injury | Everyone involved in the session. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment to be locked away securely whilst not in use. • Participants must never be left alone with equipment. | |

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| Checked by | | Name: Ben Shirvill Role: Activity Director Date 26 th February 2023 | |
| Approved by | | Name: Derek Salter Role: Health & Safety Director Date 26th February 2023 | |
| Version Control | Original Date 26/2/23 | Whats changed? | Rewritten and updated replacing previous version. |
| | Revision Date | | |

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| | <p>Revision</p> <p>Date</p> | | |
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HQ Template Published June 2020

