

Risk assessment



Name of activity, event, and location	Abseiling – Activity Tower – Kinver Scout Camp	Date of risk assessment	26/10/2021	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Megan Williams – Operations Manager
		Date of next review	01/03/2022		

What hazard have you identified? What are the 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?
Adverse weather – Lightning, high winds or poor lighting	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activity will be ended. All instructors and participants to be vacated from the tower area immediately. 	
Unauthorised access – Fall from height, damaged to the equipment	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity tower to be fenced and locked when not in use. Groups to be briefed not to enter the tower unless instructed. Signs to indicate no unauthorised access. 	
Incorrect belay set up – Fall from height	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All instructors must hold current a Scout permit or NGB suitable for the activity. Proof of this must be provided before the activity date. All instructors must have completed a competency check with an authorised member of the campsite team and have read and understood the campsites activity tower operating instructions. Instructors to check belay set up before use and ensure they can competently complete an appropriate abseil rescue if needed. 	
Incorrectly fitted helmet – head injury, falling objects	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only helmets designed for climbing to be worn. Helmets must be worn correctly as per the manufacturers guidelines by all persons within the designated area, including instructors when rigging. Instructors must check helmets before beginning the activity. Signs to indicate use of helmets. 	

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

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants who wear a full turban are exempt from wearing a helmet, as the turban should control sufficiently the risks that the helmet would otherwise guard against. This exemption does not apply to participants who are wearing a 'patka' or lighter cloth head covering, with or without a top-knot. These individuals must wear a helmet, and provision should be made for a private area where these participants can remove or adjust their patka in order to fit the helmet. Where a turban is worn in place of a helmet, special care must be taken to ensure that there is no risk of any loose cloth getting entangled in equipment or apparatus. Instructor to verbally check if any participants has objects in their pockets and ask for them to be removed before entering the tower. 	
Incorrectly fitted harness – Fall from height	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harnesses must be worn correctly as per the manufacturers guidelines by all persons taking part in the activity. Instructors must check harnesses before beginning the activity. Instructors to re-check harnesses immediately prior to any participant leaving the abseil platform. Chest harnesses must be worn when inversion is likely i.e: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The participant has a fairly prominent upper body/stomach and no hip definition There is a medical reason that suggests the participant may faint/collapse If there is a risk of inversion by the participant but they are too small for a standard harnesses, a full body harness must be used. 	
Unsecure attachment to safety rope – Fall from height	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of the abseil safety rope is mandatory. Instructors must be clipped into the designated instructor safety line when working at height. Participants must be clipped into the designated safety line as soon as they reach the abseil platform. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abseil access gate/s will only be opened when everyone is secured with a safety line. The abseil safety rope must be connected to the participants harness through the belay loop using a double figure of eight knot. Use of clipping in with a screwgate karabiner and a double figure of eight knot is acceptable. A stopper knot must be used after tying a double figure of eight knot. The instructor must do a visual and verbal check when attaching the abseil safety rope. The platform safety line should not be removed until the participant is connected to the abseil safety rope and the instructor is ready. 	
Incorrect abseiling technique - Impact with ground or other obstacles	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants to be briefed on the most effective way of negotiating the abseil. Instructors must always remain in control of the descent via the safety rope. 	
Reaching the abseil platform – Slips, trips and falls	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants must be briefed when they may enter the tower and the correct way to access or leave the abseil platform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No running inside the tower. Hands must be completely free to climb the ladder onto the platform. To come back down, all users must step backwards down the ladder. Equipment must be attached to the instructors harness or carried in a bag when using the ladder to access the abseil platform. Other safety gates on the tower (i.e zip wire access gate) must be closed and locked if participants are accessing the abseil platform unsupervised. 	
Entrapment – General injuries, abseil rescues	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief and check participants have completed the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long hair tied back or secured. Large or dangly jewelry removed. Loose or baggy clothing tucked in and secured (no neckers or lanyards to be worn on the descent) 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors must check themselves for the above also. All instructors must be trained to complete appropriate abseil rescues including the use of releasable abseils. 	
Equipment failure – Fall from height		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment to be checked before every use. All equipment to be checked and documented regularly by the campsite management team, as advised by the manufacturer. Any equipment deemed not suitable for use should be removed from the activity tower and reported to the camp warden. This should then be documented, destroyed and disposed of. All equipment must be kept in suitable, secure storage when not in use. 	
Group management – General injuries, not following instructions	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All groups that include young people must be supervised by an appropriate adult whilst waiting to abseil. Groups should be aware of the recommended group size and time allocated to the activity session. All participants and group leaders must adhere to the instructor's instructions at all times. Failure to follow instructions and/or safety concerns will result in the instructor ending the session. The instructor must stop the session and report to the camp warden if there is an accident or near miss. Instructors may end the session if they feel that the activity is not suitable for the age/ability/experience of the participants. Maximum of 2 persons to be supervised by an instructor on the abseil platform. Suitable footwear must be worn. No open toed or slip-off shoes. 	
COVID-19	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands to be sanitised before putting on or removing harnesses and helmets. Hand sanitiser will be available throughout the activity session. Clipping in the safety rope is acceptable to minimise contact (please see above for approved method of clipping in). 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Face coverings may be advised due to the close contact needed to run the activity safely.• Group leaders and participants responsible for discussing Covid safety concerns with the instructor upon arrival.• Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19 must isolate away from the activity and will be asked to return home. <p>Please see Kinver Scout Camp's full Covid-19 Risk Assessment for more information about Covid security on the campsite.</p>	
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