

Risk assessment



Name of activity, event, and location	Climbing – 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	01/04/2022		

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, poor lighting or severe rain.	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, damage 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 area 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 and anchor points before use. 	
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. 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 climbing. 	
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 climbing. 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 climbing safety rope is mandatory. Instructors should use the ground anchors as appropriate. The climbing 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. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The instructor must do a visual and verbal check when attaching the climbing safety rope. Participants should not begin climbing until instructed to do so by the instructor. 	
Incorrect belaying technique - Impact with ground or other obstacles	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants to be briefed on the most effective way of lowering down. Instructors must hold a supervisory permit or NGB for climbing to supervise participants belaying. This must be carried out in a recognised and appropriate way, taking into account the age and size of the group. Ground anchors are not to be used for direct belaying unless written permission is given by the Operations Manager prior to the activity date. 	
Moving between climbs – Slips, trips and falls	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants must be briefed as to when they may enter the climbing area and how to safely move between climbs. Participants must not walk underneath ropes where others are climbing. Only one climber per climb. 	
Rigging – Slips, trips and falls	Instructors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment must be attached to the instructors harness or carried in a bag when using the ladder to access the top platform. Instructors must clip into the designated safety lines if the abseil safety gates are open. Instructors must clearly indicate to participants that ropes are being dropped from the tower. Group leaders will be made aware and asked to clear the areas. 	
Entrapment – General injuries	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. Instructors must check themselves for the above also. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tower must be inspected for finger traps and other hazards regularly by the campsite management team and by the instructor before use. Any risks found must be risk assessed before the activity can take place. 	
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 to 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 climb. 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 time. 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. 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). Masks may be advised due to the close contact needed to run the activity safely. 	

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. | |
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Please see Kinver Scout Camp's full Covid-19 Risk Assessment for more information on Covid security on the campsite.