

Risk assessment – Campfire

Name of activity, event, and location	Explorer24 – Beacon Hill Scout Campsite	Date of risk assessment	01/10/2026	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Harry Rippon
		Date of next review	Prior to next event		

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?
General obstructions (equipment and other items) – risk of injuries to participants or leaders setting up, moving, or removing items.	Young People Volunteers	Adult volunteers should oversee setting up any equipment used for the activity and moving to where it is needed, especially on uneven ground outdoors. No one should carry larger or awkward items on their own if possible. Keep any woodpiles a safe distance from the fire to avoid tripping on it and falling into the fire.	
Fire , flames, sparks – risk of burns	All present	adult volunteers should supervise young people around the fire. There should be at least one adult or Young Leader with each group. Consider the most appropriate size of group in relation to the fire in use. Restrict access to the fire by using a defined area. Brief young people on the safe use of the equipment or fire before they use them and on the possible dangers of firelighting. Explain the rules for firelighting including: no picking up burning wood, no throwing objects onto the fire, - hold wood by one end and lower it onto the fire with your fingers near the ground. Do not add other items to the fire such as rubbish. To start a fire only use kindling or bought fire lighters. Do not use accelerants on the fire (any substance or mixture that accelerates or speeds the development and escalation of fire) – such as petrol, lighter fuel and other spirits. Appropriate footwear and clothing to be worn around fires. Avoid loose clothing - watch out for open coats, sleeves and scarves.. Tie back loose hair. No open toe shoes. Do not reach over fires or flames. Make sure there is an appropriate first aid kit available and that leader training is up to date. Make sure that cold water is available nearby – there should be at least a	

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		bucket, running water is best if possible.	
Fire – risk of uncontrolled spread of fire. Risk of environmental damage	All present	Adult volunteers should make sure fire fighting equipment is available. Options include extinguishers, fire buckets, spades, and beaters. Fires to be located on specified surface, (eg camp fire circle) or well off the ground on a stable platform (eg altar fire on designated ground slab) Fires not be located over damageable surfaces (eg tarmac or grass) Everyone should think about location of their fire. It shouldn't be near tents or directly under low trees that could be damaged. There should not be excess dry undergrowth or debris around it. Wind direction to be considered and allowed for. Size of fire to reflect location, fires should not be allowed to get too big for the situation – think about space, surrounding objects like fences and buildings, number of people, time it will need to be safely extinguished. Fires never to be left unattended. After use fires to be left in a safe manner, doused with water to prevent stray sparks.	
Behaviour – risk of overexcitement, especially at the start and end of the meeting.	Young People Volunteers	Everyone should follow the event code of conduct that sets clear expectations of behaviour. YP briefed on their individual responsibility to behave safely around fires	
Pollutants from wood – risk of ill health to participants.	Young People Volunteers	Only use natural wood for cooking. Avoid treated wood, such as some pallets or old fencing and furniture. Check the wood from the wood pile before the meeting and decide whether it's suitable.	
Smoke - inhalation leading to breathing difficulties or eye injury	Young People Volunteers	Adult volunteers should supervise young people and remind them to remove themselves from the smoke if wind direction changes. Adult volunteers to be aware of any individual medical needs (eg asthma) and ensure any medication is at hand.	
Individual needs – exclusion, injury, distress	Young People	Adaptations made to the activity to ensure all can access the fire. (eg ensure adequate space for a wheelchair user to join a campfire circle)	