

Risk assessment - Pioneering

Name of activity, event, and location	Pioneering – General use Beacon Hill Scout Campsite, Horsham	Date of risk assessment	9 October 2026	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Alison Styles
		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?
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. 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.	
Construction and dismantling –fingers, feet, or other body parts trapped between or under poles.	All Participants	Leader in charge to be competent and experienced or to appoint a suitable person to take the lead. Give all participants appropriate training, practice knots and lashes beforehand. Give everyone participating in the activity a safety briefing.	

You can find more information in the [Safety checklist for leaders](#) and at scouts.org.uk/safety

Pioneering – General Use – Beacon Hill Scout Campsite

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Pioneering equipment, using tools, natural materials, ropes – personal injuries, rope burns, cuts, bruises, abrasions, puncture wounds, eye damage.		Supervise and monitor skills of young people at all times. Do not ask individual YP to do tasks they are not yet capable of. Work in small teams to enable skills sharing. Consider participants' individual needs and any reasonable adjustments you may need to make. Check equipment before use. Reject and report any damaged or faulty equipment, using the QR code displayed on the site noticeboard.	
Structures collapsing – crush injuries, lacerations, and fractures. Impact with pioneering equipment – crush injuries, lacerations, and fractures.	All Participants Spectators	Closely supervise structures while they're being constructed and dismantled. Appoint an adult as observer. Supervise young people and check they're using the correct knots and lashings. Limit the load you put on the structure. Access to a climbing structure to be supervised at all times by a competent person. Undo the main supports last when you're dismantling a structure.	
Fall from height – personal injuries, lacerations, and fractures.		Fully brief all participants who will be above one meter off the ground. Use spotters when participants are off the ground. Structure to be regularly checked for continued integrity.	
Incidents – exacerbation of injury or increased danger due to poor response		Make sure a qualified first aider is present throughout the activity. Make sure a first aid kit is on site during the activity. Adult helpers to be briefed on correct response to emergency/ first aid situations. Purple cards to hand. Have an emergency signal (eg 3 whistle blasts) to indicate need to clear structure.	

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