



Risk assessment.

Name of activity, event, and location	Raft building Bowley International Scout Centre	Date of risk assessment	15 th February 2025	Completed by	Chris Harrop
		Date of next review	15 th February 2027	Authorised by	Chris Taylor

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?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment, or you might change the way you do the activity.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Hazard: Slips, trips and falls Risk: Personal injury	Instructors Participants Spectators	Clear any moveable trip hazards from the area before starting the session. Advise participants not to run around the pond and that the ground is uneven as part of the safety briefing.	
Hazard: Falling in, cold water shock and drowning Risk: Personal injury / possible fatality	Participants	All participants to be briefed prior to the activity and identified as swimmers (able to swim 50m in light clothing and a buoyancy aid plus able to stay afloat for 5 mins) and non-Swimmers (must be in the charge of an adult and allocated at one per craft). Complete a check of participants clothing at the beginning of the session to ensure they are dressed in suitable clothing. Buoyancy aids to be worn by all users and annually checked. A maximum of 6 persons per raft. Complete regular head counts and maintain good supervision of participants.	



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Hazard: Shallow water Risk: Personal injury / possible fatality	Participants	Participants should be briefed not to jump / dive into the water as the pond is only shallow.	
Hazard: Entrapment or entanglement in ropes Risk: Personal injury/possible fatality	Instructors Participants	Tell participants not to wrap ropes around themselves or others, or put their arms/legs through loops, or gaps in the raft structure.	
Hazard: Incorrect lifting or mishandling of raft build equipment Risk: Personal injury	Instructors Participants	Equipment used is selected to be movable by children. Teach participants how to safely handle equipment Be aware of other people's location when moving poles. Minimum of two people per pole/barrel if children. To work in groups of 6 (under 14's) or 4 (over 14) when moving rafts.	
Hazard: Impact with equipment, or rocks/structures around / in the water Risk: Personal injury	Instructors Participants	Helmets are compulsory for this activity. Highlight the risk of being hit with equipment while building or moving rafts and when on the water. Participants must be shown the correct use of the paddle and must be supervised when doing so. Make sure that participants sit/kneel on the rafts, not standing. Check that clothing requirements have been met (e.g. closed toe shoes)	
Hazard: Raft failing, participants falling in. Risk: Personal injury, possible fatality	Instructors Participants	Close supervision when on the water. Water level in the pond is shallow. As part of the safety briefing, participants should be advised to stand up as soon as possible if they fall in the water. Adults supervising should be prepared to enter the water if necessary.	
Hazard: Sickness from poor hygiene Risk: Illness	Instructors Participants	Food and drink should not be consumed during the activity. Tell all participants to shower after the activity.	

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Hazard: Water contamination – Weil's disease Risk: Illness	Instructors Participants	Check for contamination and evidence of vermin. Cover any cuts and grazes. Food and drink should not be consumed during the activity. Shower after activity. If on site as a day visitor and not likely to shower until home then participants must wash their hands, lower arms and faces before leaving site / going on to another activity.	
Hazard: Extreme weather Risk: Sunburn, hypothermia, hyperthermia	Participants	Staff to check weather forecasts before activity, observe throughout, stop activity if necessary and move to safety. Ensure participants have suitable clothing and access to warm/cold drinks. Brief on sun protection.	
Hazard: Unauthorised use Risk: Personal injury	Participants	The pond is fenced all the way around, with a gate for entry / exit. The gate must be locked when the activity is not taking place. Equipment not to be left unattended when out of the store.	

Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop half way through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved as with all activities.