



Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Sensory Trail Bowley International Scout Centre	Date of risk assessment	3 rd March 2025	Completed by	Chris Harrop
		Date of next review	3 rd March 2026	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	Activity location checked prior to session. All participants instructed to wear suitable footwear and clothing. All users briefed on potential trip hazards and the natural features they will encounter during the trail walk.	
Hazard: Group management Risk: Personal injury and/or fatality	Instructors Participants Spectators	All participants to be appropriately briefed prior to start of the activity. Any suspected dangerous behaviour to be corrected immediately. Participants to be suspended from the activity if necessary. Instructor to have a first aid kit available. Those not actively participating must be supervised.	
Hazard: Contact with natural features through wearing blindfolds Risk: Personal injury and/or fatality	Instructors Participants Spectators	Users should always wear suitable footwear and clothing. Pre-activity briefing by Leaders on possible hazards. Obstacles which form part of the course are managed to have no sharp corners or edges which can be collided with. Guide rope to be used at all times, Brief user to move slowly and use their hands to feel ahead of them. Supervise activity, keep those	

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

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		blindfolded safe from impacting other people or obstacles in a way that could injure them. Use accompanying adult to provide supervision in areas where impact with structures is more likely	
Hazard: Equipment failure Risk: Personal injury	Instructors Participants Spectators	All equipment will be checked by the instructor / session leader prior to use. Any defects to be reported to the Bowley General Manager.	
Hazard: Impact with trees Risk: Personal injury	Instructors Participants	Safety helmets to be worn by users, and appropriate pre-activity briefing.	
Hazard: Adverse weather conditions Risk: Personal injury/illness	Instructors 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.	

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.