

Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Independent Scouting – Activities outside the home	Date of risk assessment	23/10/2025	Name of person doing this risk assessment	
		Date of next review	31/03/2026		

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.
Safeguarding issues – risk of abuse, inappropriate behaviour, misunderstanding	YP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Scouting adult volunteers to read and understand enhanced safety and safeguarding messaging in welcome pack Two adults must be present on the call (when call is required). Adult volunteers to always follow Yellow Card Adult volunteers have up to date Safeguarding training 	
Online safety – Risk of abuse, inappropriate behaviours, misunderstanding	YP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervise young people when they're online and give them advice about staying safe. Further advice and information can be found on the Scouts website or from the NSPCC. 	
Lone working – risks associated with young people completing activities outside of the home where they are not being supervised by an adult	YP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine an InTouch system to keep communication with a responsible adult 	
Roads and traffic – risk of injuries from collisions between vehicles and people.	YP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose a route with minimal use of roads without a footpath and avoiding busy main roads where possible Brief young people on safety around roads and expected behaviour. Be aware of suitable crossing places, make YP aware of them Adults directly supervise crossing if necessary 	
Using public transport – risk of getting lost or encountering unsafe environments	YP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people advised to plan route in advance with an adult where necessary Use InTouch to ensure safe arrival 	

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

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<p>Walking in busy areas, by roads, on pavements – Risk of injury, lost child, negative interaction with public</p>	<p>YP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult to brief young people on walking in a busy area and expected behaviour. • Suitable footwear to be worn • Follow the Highway Code and Green Cross Code • Adults to make plan with YP in case they get lost or separated • Adult to monitor pavement/ route for hazards (eg oncoming dog walker or protruding step) and alert/instruct young people around them. • YP briefed to walk, don't run, in busy areas and by roads. 	
<p>Walking in the dark - Accident, injury</p>	<p>YP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torches to be used where there are no streetlights • Activities, timings and routes planned in advance with a responsible adult to avoid young people being out alone in the dark 	
<p>Weather - rain before and during the activity, hot weather causing heat exhaustion or sun stroke.</p>	<p>YP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult should monitor the weather forecast in advance. If unsuitable weather (eg heavy rain or extreme heat) is forecast, plan an alternative activity. • Adult should advise YP on suitable clothing to wear and carry (including sun protection and waterproofs). Help on this can be found on the Scout website. Everyone should bring a filled water bottle. • Adult should monitor young people and return home if it gets too hot or the weather deteriorates. 	
<p>Medical / Additional Needs - Exclusion, upset, injury</p>	<p>YP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careful consideration of entire route and it's suitability during planning phase. • Additional equipment & medicines may be needed and the use and access of this should be considered 	
<p>Technology (phones, cameras, computers, music, films) - Engaging in inappropriate content, partaking in actions not allowed leading to emotional distress</p>	<p>YP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Others aware and have given consent for photography. • Make sure music and films are approved by an adult. 	

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.

You can find more information in the [Safety checklist for Section Volunteers](https://scouts.org.uk/safety) and at scouts.org.uk/safety

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