

SAFE ADVENTURES

ACCREDITATION AND SAFETY

Scout Adventures is the collective name for The Scout Associations national activity centres. With over 100 years of experience in engaging young people in adventure The Scout Association operates all of its national centres with the highest levels of safety and quality educational provision in mind. Our teams are trained and assessed to all relevant national standards to ensure they are able to provide not just a safe experience but a great experience.

At each our centres we have undertaken accreditation with a number of schemes dedicated to maintaining high quality provision in the outdoor sector. The accreditations and licenses outlined below, and assessed by independent industry experts, are designed to provide the necessary reassurance to teachers, youth workers, and other adults responsible for taking young people on adventurous activity experiences that our centres have all the necessary provisions in place to ensure you have a safe, enjoyable and educationally valuable adventure with us.

Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge

The LOtC Quality Badge provides for the first time a national award combining the essential elements of provision - learning and safety - into ONE easily recognisable and trusted accreditation scheme for ALL types of learning outside the classroom provider throughout the UK. This includes museums, art galleries, adventure centres, nature reserves, science learning centres and farms among many other provider types. The scheme is managed and developed by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom.

You can find each of our centres listed on <http://lotcqualitybadge.org.uk/>

Adventuremark

Adventuremark is a non-statutory safety scheme devised by the Adventure Activity Industry Advisory Committee (AAIAC) for providers of adventurous activities that are outside the scope of the Adventure Activity Licensing regulations. Adventuremark allows providers to demonstrate to their customers or users that the provider's arrangements for managing the potential risks of adventure activities have been inspected and found to meet the necessary standards of good practice in the adventure activity industry.

You can find each of our centres listed on <http://www.adventuremark.co.uk/>

Adventurous Activity Licensing Authority (AALA)

Adventure activities licensing ensures that activity providers follow good safety management practices. A license indicates that the provider has been inspected by the Adventure Activities Licensing Service on behalf of the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority, with particular attention being paid to their safety management systems with young people, and has been able to demonstrate compliance with nationally accepted standards of good practice in the delivery of adventure activities to young people, with due regard to the benefits and risks of the activity. The AALA license only applies to centres which run activities within the scope of the licensing regulations.

You can find our Buddens, Hawkthirst and Great Tower centres listed here: http://www.aals.org.uk/aals/provider_search.php

Risk Assessments

All of the Activities completed at our centres are subject to thorough risk assessments. Our risk assessments are technical documents written in relation to a particular activity, unless you are qualified or experienced in that activity it is probably of very little use to you to obtain copies of these documents. The National Guidance from the Outdoor Education Advisors Panel (OEAP) is that when a provider holds the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge then there is no reason to seek further assurances about the safety of their provision. Among other things the quality badge confirms that our risk assessments are appropriate and cover all relevant aspects of our activities.

The full guidance from the OEAP can be found here: <https://oeapng.info/3335-asking-for-a-providers-risk-assessments>. However if you still feel you would like to see copies of these documents our centre teams will be happy to send these to you upon request

Climbing/Abseiling and Archery for Girlguides

The Girlguiding website sets out specific instructor qualifications for climbing and abseiling. Our instructors hold alternative qualifications to those listed however Girlguiding recognises Scout Adventures (Scout National Activity Centres) awards as being equivalent to these requirements and lists them as appropriate alternatives - <https://girlguidesclimbing.wordpress.com/about-2/the-scheme/equivalents/>.

For Archery the majority of our instructors hold in house qualifications and our Lead Instructors at each centre hold the Archery GB Instructor Award, this meets the Girlguiding requirement.

We will not disclose copies of instructor's personal qualifications or certificates but we are happy to confirm that all of our instructors are appropriately qualified for the activities they deliver.

Data and Statistics

The Scout Association gathers data on any incidents or injuries that occur at our centres. We use this information to ensure we are delivering a high level of care and safety to our guests. Much of this data is highly specialised to specific activities and operating procedures. We believe that a high level of level of training and expertise is required to interpret this information effectively and correctly, for this reason we do not publish data to the general public. Instead please be assured that the accreditations and licenses outlined above demonstrate our high level of quality and safety in delivered adventurous activity experiences.