

This document contains the risk assessment and controls for each Squirrel and Beaver activity on the centre. It covers:

- General risks
- Soft Archery
- Camp Cooking
- Soft Tomahawks
- Nature Explorers
- Climbing
- Den Building
- Tracking
- Campfire

Who is this risk assessment for?

This document is for use by both Scout adventure instructors, and adults who run a Leader-Led session.

Scout Adventures Instructed activities	Leader Led activities
Instructors must read and “sign off” acceptance of the risk assessment following normal procedures. You must follow the controls identified in this document.	Leaders may use this document as the basis of your own risk assessment for delivering the activities. You should also add to this any risk and controls you identify yourself.

The full risk assessment for each activity is made up of **BOTH** parts of the below, to use this risk assessment:

- 1) Read the generic risk assessment section first , **THEN**
- 2) Read the activity specific risk assessment for the activity.

Severity Factor & Remaining Risk Assessment

The following descriptors are used in each risk assessment. Note that a **MEDIUM** residual risk is used to show that a hazard still requires dynamic risk assessment within the session by the instructor.

Level	Severity Description	Residual Risk Description
Low	Minor injury requiring no treatment, or simple first aid.	Control measures have reduced the severity/likelihood to minimal levels.
Medium	Injury requires the participant to stop doing the activity; medical treatment is beyond the skills of a basic first aider.	Control measures have reduced severity and/or likelihood to an adequate level but <u>the hazard still requires dynamic risk assessment and conscious consideration.</u>
High	Injury requires expert medical attention and/or be fatal.	Control measures haven not reduced severity/ likelihood to an acceptable level.

General Risk Assessment for Beaver and Squirrel Sessions

(To be used in conjunction with the relevant activity specific risk assessment further in the document)

Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
Injury or accidents associated with group behaviour and participation in adventurous activities	All	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Suitable supervision ratios must be followed matching the requirements of P.O.R for the section. o Each activity should begin with a safety briefing covering the key rules identified in the session's guidance. o All sessions should include a "stop" command with clear instructions so that participants know what to do if someone identifies an existing or developing hazard. o It is recommended for adults in charge to follow the plan in the session guidance but also use dynamic leadership - be prepared to adapt or take breaks within the session – some groups may have shorter attention spans, or take longer to complete some activities detailed in the guidance. 	Low
Injury caused by failure of equipment/ base/ surroundings.	All	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Supervising adults should ensure they set clear boundaries for activities and should complete a visual check for any hazards which will require additional control or supervision. o All equipment has been selected as being suitable for Squirrels and Beavers, but it still requires clear instructions and supervision to be given to participants. o The adult leading the sessions should check the equipment is in good condition at the start of the session, and before returning it. o Any specific relevant instructions or guidelines for items of equipment should be followed – these are detailed in the session guidance. 	Low
Injury resulting from unsupervised use of equipment	Any	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o All equipment must be left safe and secure by the adult in charge when unattended, each set of activity equipment is intended only for use under adult supervision as detailed above. 	Low
Injury resulting from environmental/weather conditions	All	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The adult in charge should check that all participants are dressed appropriately for the activity - this includes closed toe footwear, and long sleeves for archery and climbing. 	Low

Activity Risk Assessments (Squirrel and Beaver Activities)

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Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clothing should also be appropriate for the weather – check that participants have clothing for hot/cold/wet/windy weather as conditions require. ○ If thunder is heard or lightning seen then apply the 30:30 rule. If the gap between thunder and lightning (flash to bang) is less than 30 seconds then move to safety (indoors) for 30 minutes. Repeat with each new thunder/lightning. ○ The adult in charge should assess the conditions of the ground and any existing or developing hazards and brief participants about any specific hazards and how they should behave. This should take into consideration their surroundings e.g. trees and fences, slippery or wet ground, and the how easy it is for participants to see and move across the area. ○ The adult in charge should be prepared to dynamically change or adapt the activity if existing or developing environmental conditions compromise the safety of participants. Most sessions can also be adapted to run indoors if needed. ○ Adults should be vigilant for signs of foreseeable conditions related to the weather conditions and take appropriate action - e.g. hypothermia, dehydration. 	
Health issues including personal injury or illness	All	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supervising adults should be aware of medical conditions, learning needs and individual support required by participants in their group. For instructor led sessions they should ensure this information is passed onto the instructor if relevant. ○ Supervising adults must ensure that participant with specific medications (e.g. asthma inhalers, epipens etc) have arrangements to access medications if needed. 	Low
Safeguarding, first aid, or other similar emergency	Participant	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All leaders and instructors are trained in safeguarding and first aid. The centre has a duty manager system to provide support in an emergency. ○ The adults in charge will ensure there is access to a first aid kit, if the session is Leader-Led and you do not have a first aid kit please ask to borrow one from the centre. 	Low

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Activity Specific Risk Assessments for Beaver and Squirrel Sessions

(To be used in conjunction with the general risk assessment earlier in the document)

Soft Archery

Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
Injury resulting from misuse of bows and arrows. (e.g. String hitting arm, other people being hit by arrows)	All.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The session uses soft versions of equipment intended for children which has a very low potential for causing injury even if someone is directly hit by an arrow. The adult in charge should follow the instructions in the guidance document including a clear demonstration of how to use the bow, and close supervision of those using the bows. Ensure the range is set up with clear waiting lines, and overshoot areas to minimise the chance of people being hit by arrows. The bows should be kept at the shooting line at all times, and participants should be made aware that they can only use the bows whilst under supervision. Encourage participants to keep the bows and arrows pointing down the range and never towards a person or away from the range. 	Low
Injury from entanglement or contact with the bow string	Participants	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants should wear long sleeves or an arm guard to prevent the bow string from injuring their arms. The adult in charge should check that entanglement hazards are removed or made safe – examples include tying up long hair, removing jewellery, removing or tucking in neckerchief/scarfs. 	Low
Injury from damaged equipment	Participant	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adult in charge should inspect and count both the bows and the arrows at the start and end of the session, don't use arrows which appear damaged or become damaged during the session. 	Low

Soft Tomahawk Throwing

Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
Injury resulting from misuse of Tomahawks (e.g. Other people being hit by tomahawks)	All.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The session uses soft versions of equipment intended for children which has a very low potential for causing injury even if someone is directly hit by a tomahawk. 	Low

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Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adult in charge should follow the instructions in the guidance document including a clear demonstration of how to use the tomahawks, and close supervision of those using them. Ensure the range is set up with clear waiting lines, and overshoot areas to minimise the chance of people being hit by tomahawks. The tomahawks should be kept at the shooting line at all times, and participants should be made aware that they can only use them whilst under supervision. Encourage participants to only throw the tomahawks down the range and never towards a person or away from the range. 	
Injury from entanglement while throwing	Participants	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adult in charge should check that entanglement hazards are removed or made safe – examples include tying up long hair, removing jewellery, removing or tucking in neckerchief/scarfs. 	Low
Injury from damaged equipment	Participant	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adult in charge should inspect and count tomahawks at the start and end of the session, don't use tomahawks which appear damaged or become damaged during the session. 	Low

Nature Explorers

Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
Lost participant during an activity or game	Participant	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult in charge should brief participants to stay within line of sight of their designated adult at all times. Adults should complete regular head counts throughout the session. The adult in charge should contact the Duty Manager and initiate the Lost-child procedure if initial attempts to find the missing child are not successful. 	Low
Stings, Bites, allergies and similar while playing an activity or game,	Participant	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Adult in charge should warn participants about any identified hazards of wildlife during activity briefings, if they have identified specific plants that should be avoided in the area then they should show participants what these look like. Adults should ensure that participants use the tools supplied to collect mini-beasts to avoid harm to people and to the bugs. 	Medium (Active monitoring needed throughout the session)
Injury from moving large or dangerous objects	Participant	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adult in charge should brief participants to look carefully before picking up any objects. During activities adults should supervises to 	Low

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during an activity or game			<p>ensure that participants are not trying to move items which are too large or heavy to be safely carried/moved by the child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the Rainbow wheels activity participants should be instructed specifically to check it items they find look “clean” and supervision provided to ensure they don't pick up hazardous litter or rubbish. 	

Tracking

Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
Lost participant during an activity or game	Participant	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult in charge should brief participants to stay within line of sight of their designated adult at all times. Adults should to complete regular head counts throughout the session. The adult in charge should contact the Duty Manager and initiate the Lost-child procedure if initial attempts to find the missing child are not successful. 	Low
Injury from moving sticks or stones during the activities.	Participant	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adult in charge should brief participants to look carefully before picking up any objects. During activities adults should supervises to ensure that participants are not trying to move items which are too large or heavy to be safely carried/moved by the child. 	Low

Den Building

Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
Injury from natural hazards in the den building areas.	Participants	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before the session the leader in charge should complete a check of the activity area – as well as identifying general hazards they should specifically look for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up Above – look for any dead or hanging branches above the area Down Below – look for hazardous plants, rubbish ants nests etc. Assess the movement hazards – are there lots of branches at eye height which will mean you should prohibit running in the woods? Participants should be briefed on any hazards identified if necessary, it may be appropriate to designate some areas out of bounds, or use adults to provide extra supervision near to identified hazards. 	Low

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Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
Injury from moving sticks or branches during the activity.	Participant	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adult in charge should brief participants to look carefully before picking up any objects. During activities adults should supervise to ensure that participants are not trying to move items which are too large or heavy to be safely carried/moved by the child. The adult in charge should brief participants to be aware of others around them when moving long sticks – larger sticks or logs should be moved by 2 people. 	Low
Injury from the shelter collapsing onto participants.	Participant	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The supervising adults should ensure that every shelter gets a “shake test” before people climb inside – shaking the structure will encourage any parts which are at risk of accidentally collapsing to do so before there is someone underneath them. 	Low
People running into or tripping over guy ropes used to hold up shelters.	Anyone	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All strings used for the sessions are of a bright colour which contrast brightly with the natural environment. 	Low

Camp Cooking

Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
Injury from collecting fire wood.	Participant	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adult in charge should brief participants to look carefully before picking up any objects and demonstrate the size of fire wood they need to find (pencil thickness, and thumb thickness). During activities adults should supervise to ensure that participants are only collecting suitable pieces of fire wood. 	Low
Illness caused by poor food hygiene	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults should include specific briefing information in the session about the need to wash hands when working with food, and supervise hand washing with soap and water prior to food handling. Food items cooked are all safe to be consumed raw and will be unlikely to cause illness if consumed when partly cooked. 	Low
Burns from eating hot food	Participants	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants should be instructed to wait a few moments before eating their skewers, and to carefully test the temperature before taking a bite from the food. Adults should provide careful and close supervision during this part of the activity. 	Low
Allergic reactions to food items	Participants	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food items selected for the session are not common allergens. Adult in charge must check/be aware of any allergies or food intolerances in the group which are significant to the session. 	Low

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Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
Cuts to hands using knives	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knives and cutting equipment used is designed specifically for children and has a very low risk of cutting skin. Adults should provide careful and close supervision during this part of the activity. 	Low
Burns from the fire or contact with hot equipment	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult in charge to check that all participants have removed/made safe any dangly clothing (e.g. scarves) and long hair. Adult in charge to ensure that the fire is lit and managed by adults, with constant supervision provided. Heat resistant gloves are provided to protect hands when adding fuel to the fire. Fire wood should only be added to the fire by an adult, or under direct and close adult supervision. Participants should have direct and close supervision when holding skewers over the fire to ensure they do not accidentally come into contact with hot items 	Low
Fire spread to unwanted areas (during or after intended use)	All	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adult in charge should check the area and remove any environmental materials or similar which might catch fire. Fire lighting materials should be kept secure/separate from unintended use, and away from the fire once the fire has been lit. The fire must be contained in a designated fire pit or alter fire. A fire bucket of water must be available in easy reach at all times to douse any fire spread to unintended areas. The fire must be supervised until it is completely burnt out, or doused with water until it is cold before being left unsupervised. 	Low
Injury caused by smoke inhalation.	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults should ensure that only natural woods are burnt on the fire – avoid man made timber products, and any litter or waste. Brief participants to move around and away from smoke as it moves. 	Low

Climbing

Hazards	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place	Residual Risk
This risk assessment is in addition to the Off Ground Generic and Element specific risk assessment used by Scout Adventures. If the session is Leader-Led then it must be led by a suitably qualified permit holder operating within their remit, who must produce their own risk assessment for the activity.				
Injury caused by incompetence of	Participants	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Squirrel and Beaver sessions require adults to belay – peer to peer belaying should NOT be used on these sessions. 	Low

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belayers to safely manage the system			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o If the belayers are qualified instructors or permit holders then they can belay without further supervision and without the rope being tailed. o If the belayers are unqualified adults they must be supervised as by a qualified instructor – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A maximum of 2 ropes should be in use during the session. o Unqualified adults may be taught to belay using a 5 point personal belay technique instead of bell ringing, but if there are sufficient people then bell ringing can be used. o Squirrels and Beavers should not be asked to tail ropes as there is a high risk of them letting go. o If there are not sufficient people to tail the ropes then the instructor should tail both ropes, allowing them to supervise the belayers and back up the rope at the same time. 	
Injury caused by poor selection or fitting of PPE	Participants	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Specialist child sized full body harnesses and helmets are to be used during climbing sessions with Squirrels and Beavers. “Standard” PPE should be used for adults, and may be used if participants can safely fit into it as may be the case for taller beavers. o Instructing adults must be familiar with how to fit and check the fit of the harnesses on young people. If in doubt they must receive induction from an instructor or trainer who is competent to fit the harnesses. 	Low
Participants becoming scared and emotionally stuck	Participants	Low (NB note this column is an assessment of severity – not the risk or likelihood)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The session should only use routes which have been prepared for smaller participants – these will generally have more hold placement options available. o Instructors should be prepared to initiate a simple intervention following a hierarchy of escalation; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talk the participant down in possible. 2. Send another adult up on the adjacent rope to assist the participant if needed 3. Call for rescue support from the duty manager. Please note that on Leader-Led by permit holders the permit holders should be prepared to affect their own rescue in the first instance before they require support from the centre staff. o All interventions at stage 2 or 3 should be reported to the centre so that procedures can be reviewed to check suitability. 	Medium (Active monitoring needed throughout the session)

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