



# 1<sup>st</sup> Kesgrave Scout Group

Twelve Acre Approach, Kesgrave, Suffolk IP5 1JF

Name of activity, section, event, and location	1 <sup>st</sup> Kesgrave Scout Group - Pioneering / Rope Activities	Date of risk assessment	16 June 22	Name of person who undertook this risk assessment	Alan Comber (working with others)
		Date of next review	28 Dec 2022 (or with significant change to environment)		

This document covers pioneering. It should be read in conjunction with the section meeting risk assessment which covers generic items.

In the context of this document pioneering covers – camp gadgets including camp gates; pioneering structures ie ‘A’ frames, platforms, rope bridges, rafts etc; aerial runways and zip wires. Please refer to POR and Scout Association fact sheets before undertaking a pioneering project to check if there are any guidelines or standards applicable to the construction or type of kit used (pulleys, ropes, cables etc), and any testing of kit or permits requirements before proceeding with a project.

Definition: pioneering poles covers - wooden spars, canes, sticks, staves, broom handles, wooden/metal poles etc. Pioneering kit covers poles, ropes, metal wire, pulleys, pegs, pickets etc

Hazard identified? Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
<p><b>A hazard</b> is something that may cause harm or damage.</p> <p><b>The risk</b> is the harm may occur from the hazard.</p>	<p>For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors</p>	<p><b>Controls</b> are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it.</p> <p>For example, you may use a different piece of equipment, or you might change the way you do the activity.</p>	<p>Keep <b>checking</b> throughout the activity in case you need to change what you are doing or even <b>stop</b> the activity.</p> <p>This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.</p>
<p><b>Lone working</b> – People on their own - risk of a medical or other incident occurring they cannot deal with adequately</p>	<p>Leaders and helpers</p>	<p>No one should be left alone unless in an emergency when no other option is available.</p>	

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<p><b>Traffic</b> – injuries from collisions between vehicles and people</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>See Section meeting risk assessment for details – particularly dropping off pioneering kit</p>	
<p><b>Terrain / Layout</b></p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>See Section meeting risk assessment for details.</p>	
<p><b>Protrusions, slips, trips, falls, collisions</b> – injuries to people moving around</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>See Section meeting risk assessment for details – particularly slippery/uneven surfaces, lighting levels, free from clutter and sharp objects.</p> <p>Check for natural hazards in the build area especially under structures where participants are off the ground – rope bridges, aerial runways, platforms etc.</p> <p>Consider barriers / bollards / a cordoned off area to improve safety.</p>	
<p><b>Manual Handling</b> – back injuries, strains, cuts, bruises etc</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>Ensure appropriate safety equipment is available and worn if required eg gloves to stop splinters / rope burns, etc. However, bear in mind that gloves may affect your grip.</p> <p>When carrying pioneering kit to and from the build area make more than one trip if needed and use trolleys if available.</p> <p>Ensure participants don't carry more than they can lift/manage safely. Consider carrying heavier objects with two or more people or using appropriate transportation mechanisms (trolleys etc).</p> <p>Remind people how to lift and carry safely if necessary.</p> <p>All lifting and carrying of pioneering equipment by young people to be supervised by adults.</p> <p>Never carry pioneering poles above shoulder height and take care when turning to prevent contact with other people.</p>	
<p><b>Equipment used</b> – injuries to people during the activity.</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>See Section meeting risk assessment for details – particularly checking equipment before use, put away after use clean and dry.</p> <p>Ensure all kit used is in a good condition and suitable for the pioneering project being undertaken. Report any damaged or faulty equipment.</p> <p>Ensure all pioneering kit (poles, ropes, pulleys etc) are always stored / stacked safely and don't cause a trip hazard.</p> <p>Check that the kit being used is appropriate for the age of the young people involved ie they can use it etc.</p>	

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<p><b>Materials / Rubbish</b> – cuts, allergic reactions, contamination, stains etc.</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>Ensure any rubbish and unused materials are removed at appropriate intervals during and at the end of any activity.</p>	
<p><b>Clothing / Personal kit</b> - footwear and clothing.</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>All participants to wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions, type of terrain and time of year.</p> <p>Ensure participants are wearing suitable footwear – cover feet, shoelaces done up etc.</p>	
<p><b>Pioneering activity general.</b></p>	<p>All present</p>	<p><u>General</u></p> <p>Check that the pioneering project and the type of equipment being used is appropriate for the age of the young people involved.</p> <p>Plan the structure before you start building and follow any plan provided.</p> <p>For structures where people will be off the ground (ie climbing trees, walking on ropes, climbing rope ladders etc) consider the safety implications and factor in accordingly to make as safe as possible.</p> <p>Participants should be assessed on their capabilities to undertake the pioneering project and appropriate adjustments made as required.</p> <p>Take account of any health issues such as vertigo or frightened of heights.</p> <p>Participants should be briefed/given appropriate training for the pioneering activity and cover as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction technique(s) to be used, supports, guys etc.</li> <li>• Knots and lashings to be used.</li> <li>• Carrying, lifting, and storing pioneering equipment.</li> <li>• Making people aware that large poles can fall if not securely held and people need to be careful when lifting or positioning them, and people need to be aware of what poles are near them and may fall.</li> <li>• Risk of falling especially when ropes and poles are damp/wet.</li> <li>• Keeping out of the way when not undertaking a task, especially not being under any construction.</li> <li>• What to do in an emergency.</li> </ul>	

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		<p>Participants should be positioned so leaders can see them all the while they are involved with the activity.</p> <p>A spotter(s) should be in place when participants are off the ground.</p> <p>The number of people or load on the project should be limited appropriately, at all times.</p> <p>People should be closely supervised, and structures checked regularly while they're being constructed and dismantled.</p> <p>Ensure structures are secure before leaving them unattended at any time to prevent it collapsing. For pioneering projects consider taping off to warn people passing not to use it whilst unattended/unsupervised.</p> <p><u>Personal Safety</u></p> <p>Ensure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participant's clothing is suitable ie, no dangling elements, covers sensitive skin areas, suitable footwear etc.</li> <li>• Participants briefed to tie hair back, remove any objects / jewellery that could become trapped and to remove objects from pockets.</li> <li>• Personal possessions that could be damaged should be kept out of the way and secure.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Pioneering activity construction</b> – injuries to people caused by equipment used, failures, use eg cuts, bumps, bruises, rope burns, crush injuries, lacerations, abrasions, puncture wounds, eye damage, sprains, strains and fractures. etc</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p><u>General</u></p> <p>Young people will be closely supervised, and their work checked to make sure they are using the correct knots and lashings.</p> <p>Check all knots and lashings are fit for purpose (ie tight enough), before being accepted as safe.</p> <p><u>Camp Gadgets/Gates</u></p> <p>Ensure the project is built on a level surface and the kit used is adequate for the intended purpose.</p> <p>Once completed check and test the structure to ensure it can be used for its intended purpose without become a safety hazard ie can it support the weight, is it stable and does it have any dangerous features ie sharp edges, trip hazards etc.</p> <p><u>Pioneering Projects</u></p>	

		<p>Ensure the project is built on an area that has few obstructions and for structures where participants will be above ground when using the project, then the ground underneath should be free from sharp or hard objects (tree stumps etc).</p> <p>Ensure the kit used is adequate for the intended purpose. Make sure any ropes, spars, pegs, pickets etc used are of the correct size and strength for its intended use.</p> <p>Where trees are used ensure they are sturdy enough to take the intended use and consider protecting with hessian sacks where the rope needs to be anchored to the tree.</p> <p>For suspended ropes (walking ropes, handrails etc) use stringer ropes and/or tie downs as appropriate to improve rope stability (ie reduced rope side to side movement and handrail ropes spreading apart too much).</p> <p>Ensure that any pioneering structures are stable, adequately roped down, sunk in the ground etc to minimise movement and take the weight and forces expected during use.</p> <p>For projects with catapults or throwing devices ensure they cannot throw objects backwards and can be safely tensioned and used. Also take into consideration the direction and distance they can fire to avoid projectiles going off site, hitting and damaging property or hurting people inadvertently.</p> <p>Considering covering pegs, pickets etc with material (cloths, sacks etc) to cover sharp protrusions to reduce any impact injuries and also to mark pegs, protruding spars etc with hazard tape to make them more visible to reduce trip and bruising injuries.</p> <p><u>Aerial Runways/Zip Wires</u></p> <p>These need to be constructed and supervised by adults with detailed practical knowledge of safely doing this so are out of scope. They will deal with the health and safety and risk assessments for these.</p>	
<p><b>Pioneering activity use –</b> injuries to people caused by equipment used, failures, use eg cuts, bumps, bruises, rope burns, crush injuries, lacerations, abrasions, puncture wounds, eye damage, sprains, strains and fractures. etc</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p><u>Camp Gadgets/Gates</u></p> <p>Periodically monitor camp gadgets for potential failures/collapses etc especially if used to hold hot water.</p> <p><u>Pioneering Projects</u></p> <p>Before commencing a session using the pioneering project, the person supervising should check and decide if it is safe to do so taking account of stability, protrusions, the area, the weather, too slippery/wet to use etc.</p>	

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		<p>Pioneering projects should be closely supervised whilst being used.</p> <p>Consider putting soft material (crashmats) underneath ropes or around trees where it might help to reduce impact injuries.</p> <p>Participants should be advised of the risks and behaviour required: For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't interfere with the structure ie unnecessarily rock it, bounce up and down on the rope, over load the rope with too many participants, etc.</li> <li>• That logs and ropes may become slippery when wet.</li> <li>• Be carefully/cautious when climbing on any structure – don't rush, do it at your own pace.</li> <li>• If the project has a catapult or throwing device ensure you don't stand in front of it unless the projectiles are soft enough and in that case specify a minimum distance away.</li> </ul> <p>Any projectiles used should be suitably chosen for the intended task. Ensure inappropriate objects are not used.</p> <p>Numbers using the project at any point in time should be limited to what it can reasonably cope with, and the capabilities of the young people involved.</p> <p>The structure should be periodically checked to ensure it is safe to use and stable. If any issues are found participants should be asked to come off / stop using it and the issue(s) resolved before being using again.</p>	
<b>Pioneering activity dismantling</b> – as above	All present	<p>Think carefully about the safest way to dismantle the pioneering structure.</p> <p>Ensure everyone is safely distanced away before collapsing any parts.</p> <p>Undo the main supports last when you're dismantling a structure.</p>	
<b>Personal Well Being</b>	All present	<p>Ensure participants have sufficient/adequate personal kit taking in to account the time of day and the time of year eg sun cream, lip balm, glasses, first aid kit etc.</p> <p>If any participant is taking regular medicines, they have them with them and take at the prescribed time.</p> <p>If any participant has a serious medical condition, they are carrying appropriate medicines eg inhalers, epipens etc. with them or given to an adult to carry. Ensure it is in a suitable container and location known and someone can administer it in an emergency.</p>	
<b>Peer Led Activities</b>	All present	- Ensure participants are adequately trained and capable of building rafts safely.	

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		<p>- ensure young people have a personal rafting permit.</p> <p>- Ensure a supervision plan is in place.</p>	
<p><b>Behaviour</b>– horseplay, overexcitement, injuries.</p>	<p>All taking part</p>	<p>Participants will only be able to take part in pioneering and rope activities if leaders are sure their behaviour is safe.</p> <p>Have a clear location for those not participating in the activity that is safely out of the way.</p> <p>Participants should be briefed as appropriate to their abilities/knowledge on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not playing with the pioneering kit ie swinging on it, throwing or waving poles about, using poles as spears, swords etc. The dangers of injury or poking someone in the eye.</li> <li>• If a pole is falling and the rope's sliding through your hand, let it go!</li> <li>• Don't wrap a rope around your wrist or otherwise fasten it to you - if what it's connected to gives way it'll yank and cause injury.</li> <li>• Don't use inappropriate knots.</li> <li>• Not to use the pioneering project without adult supervision.</li> </ul> <p>The area immediately around the project should not be walked through; only individuals participating in the activity should be in close proximity. If necessary, consider physically marking out a 'restricted' area.</p> <p>Behaviour will be monitored for horseplay, dangerous activities etc and the activity will be stopped or a cooling off period introduced if the activity gets out of hand or injuries are likely to happen. A clear communication method will be used to stop the activity if necessary.</p>	
<p><b>Behaviour</b> – Inappropriate / Inadequate Leadership</p>	<p>Leaders and Helpers</p>	<p>Adults briefed on their role.</p> <p>Have the right ratios of number of adults to supervise.</p> <p>Make sure the activity leader is competent to construct the project.</p> <p>Ensure all necessary permits and permissions are in place especially for high ropes etc (see POR).</p>	
<p><b>Behaviour</b> - Confrontation / interactions with members of public</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>Appropriate briefing of leaders on expected behaviour and young people on required behaviour / Code of Conduct.</p>	

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<b>Emergencies</b>	All present	See Section meeting risk assessment for details.	
<b>Security / Kit Theft</b>	All present	See Section meeting risk assessment for details.	
<b>Safeguarding / Lost</b>	All present	See Section meeting risk assessment for details.	
<b>Weather</b>	All present	<p>Assess the weather risk before and during the activity and act accordingly. Damp / wet weather can make the structure slippery and wet ropes can stretch or tighten.</p> <p>Consider taking the tension out of structure if ropes get wet or the pioneering project is not being used. This will stop putting unnecessary strain on the ropes, stop people using it, stop pegs etc being pulled out the ground by shrinking ropes.</p> <p>For structures above the ground do not use when a lightning storm is overhead.</p>	
<b>First Aid / Injuries that need treatment / Incident</b>	All present	<p>See Section meeting risk assessment for details – particularly the first aid kit being suitable for the type of injuries that might result.</p> <p>A qualified first aid person, with an appropriate first aid kit, should be considered to deal with first aid incidents eg splinters, rope burns, bruising etc.</p> <p>Ensure sufficient qualified first aiders present to deal with the numbers taking part and the types of injuries for the activity being undertaken.</p> <p>Ensure first aid kits take account of the activities being delivered.</p> <p>Ensure the details of the local A&amp;E department, local doctors, pharmacies etc known.</p> <p>Tweezers should be considered to help with removal of splinters.</p> <p>Ensure participants can easily move away from the area in the event of an emergency.</p>	
<b>Accessibility / Inclusiveness / Health Issues</b>	All present	<p>Ensure any accessibility, disability, or behavioural issues have been taken account of.</p> <p>Ensure the activity is suitable for the age group and their abilities.</p> <p>Ensure allergy or other health issues been taken account of.</p> <p>Ensure the planned activity takes account of additional environmental hazards such as heatstroke, sunburn, ticks, weils disease and other insects and animals.</p>	
<b>Emergency access routes</b>	All present	Ensure emergency access points are known and not blocked / locked.	