

General Guidelines

The policy of the 8th Bridgnorth Scout Group is to provide its members with a range of activities utilising the Scout Association's programme, so as to enable them to experience the fun, friendship and adventure of Scouting that is healthy and safe.

The Scout Group does not intend to eliminate all health and safety risks, as this would prevent the Scout Group from providing virtually all the activities (such as arts and crafts, games, camps, archery, shooting, hikes, climbing, abseiling, paddle sports, pony treks and cooking) that its members enjoy. Instead, the Scout Group intends to manage the risks so that they are comparable with those experienced by the families of its members when they supervise their children at home, take them to places by car, walk to the shops, play games etc. We recognise that accidents and injuries may occur from time to time.

The Group Health and Safety Policy potentially applies to the following people:

Everyone who visits the Scout Group's Headquarters including Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Young Leaders, Leaders, Family Members, Scouting visitors from other Groups or Districts, people working at the site, casual and *ad hoc* visitors, uninvited visitors who attend when the Scout Group is not meeting.

Everyone who takes part in the Scout Group's activities at any location including Squirrel Scouts, Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Young Leaders, Leaders, Family Members, Scouting visitors from other Groups or Districts and members of the public where the activities take place.

Certain people have specific responsibilities under this policy as outlined below:

Specific Responsibilities

Group Trustee Board

Will ensure the Health and Safety Policy is fit for purpose; adheres to Scout Association guidelines and will support the GSL and Leaders in ensuring that it is maintained, reviewed and actioned.

Group Scout Leader

The Competent Person for Health and Safety purposes is the Group Scout Leader, who will ensure that:

- the headquarters and grounds receive a formal annual health and safety inspection / risk assessment;
- there is an implementation programme for actions identified by health and safety risk assessments and that progress is monitored within the Scout Group;
- there is a set of Risk Assessments maintained, that are made available to all Leaders. These Guidelines shall give concise advice on the measures to mitigate identified risks required for the Group's main activities.
- Leaders are up to date with Mandatory Safety, Safeguarding and First Aid training

Leaders

All leaders, assistants and instructors have a responsibility to:

- consider the health and safety of young people and adults in all the activities that they run and help to run, and they ensure Risk Assessments are written for all activities taking place;
- ascertain the Scout Association's rules for the safe operation of activities and to adhere to them. This includes the safety rules of other organisations such as Mountain Training, British Canoeing, Small Bore Rifle Association and so on, for adventurous activities;
- set young people a positive example in health and safety matters. This ranges from basic hygiene to the correct use of equipment and the provision of safety precautions;
- train young people in the behavioural requirements and safety rules of the activities in which they participate;
- inform parents of the nature of the activities that take place during Section meetings, camps, expeditions etc., as well as the kit required, start, finish and transport arrangements. This may be via letters, emails, posters in the HQ or verbally;
- ensure their Mandatory Safety, Safeguarding and First Aid training is up to date;
- ensure that drivers and their vehicles adhere to legal requirements such as insurance, tax, MOT, seatbelts, child seats, alcohol limits, mobile phones and the highway code, when transporting members to, from or during Scout activities.

Young people

All section members have a responsibility to apply both the technical and behavioural aspects of safety to the activities they do, otherwise they exclude themselves from taking part.

Parents

Parents and other responsible adults have a responsibility to:

- satisfy themselves as to the planned arrangements and ensure that their children are in appropriate health, arrive and are collected on time, and provide appropriate kit when asked to do so;
- provide health information on the membership form and regularly update OSM, particularly in relation to food allergies and medical issues that may impact the food consumed during activities or restrict participation in the activities;
- inform leaders when changes are made to a young person's health information or other circumstances;
- participate in Section Rotas (on mutually agreed dates) so as to ensure that the adult to child supervision ratio is achieved. This is because the Scout Group has insufficient volunteer Leaders to run the weekly Section meetings and other activities and therefore asks parents to help on an informal rota basis;
- inform Leaders of any significant concerns that they have in relation to health and safety. Parents also have a responsibility to help the Scout Group resolve health and safety issues by helping with the work on the headquarters, grounds and equipment and / or supporting the fund-raising activities that finance these improvements;
- ensure that drivers and their vehicles adhere to legal requirements such as insurance, tax, MOT, seatbelts, child seats, alcohol limits, mobile phones and the highway code, when transporting members to, from or during Scout activities.

Meg Turner

May 2023 (to be reviewed annually)