

Risk assessment – Axes, saws and knives

Name of activity, event, and location	Cox Wood Scout Campsite Bushscout Activity Equipment – axes, saws and knives Equipment will only be available to Bushscout trained adults.	Date of risk assessment	14/01/2024	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Cox Wood Crew
		Date of next review	14/01/2025		

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?
<p>A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.</p>	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Inadequate supervision – unskilled adults failing to keep activity safe</p>	All	<p>Bushscout knife kit can only be used by adults who have completed a Buschout training course. ,Adults competent and familiar with the use of the equipment and clear on how to instruct / supervise young people with this equipment Adults to have read guidance before supervision of axe and saw activities : Using axe and saws safely Scouts Adults to have read guidance before supervision of knife activities : Scout Knife Safety Guidance Scouts Adults to have opportunity to practise their own skills before supervising YP Supervision plan clear so that those supervising use of equipment are not distracted by other young people not participating Closer supervison / 1 to 1, for young people with additional needs requiring greater support.</p>	
<p>Inappropriate use of axe – leading to injury of self or others Cuts, bruises, serious injury</p>	All	<p>Bushscout axe kit can only be used by adults who have completed a Buschout training course. Group safety briefing at beginning of event, giving clear guidelines on when, where and how axes can be used Axes used in clearly defined area (consider use of roping off if this is</p>	

You can find more information in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](#) and at scouts.org.uk/safety

Cox Wood Scout Campsite – Bushscout Equipment Example axes, saws and knives – May 2023

Risk assessment – Axes, saws and knives

		<p>mobile)</p> <p>Axe activities to cease in inadequate light</p> <p>YP supervised at all times when in axe use area, group size to reflect level of supervision and space available.</p> <p>Leaders to assess and monitor individuals competence with axe</p> <p>YP and adults given guidance on axe use, including using a chopping block below wood, using a kneeling position to protect the legs, using another stick to hold up smaller wood to protect fingers, stop using the axe if you feel tired, make sure there is adequate space around you before swinging the axe, wearing appropriate clothing and PPE</p> <p>If you need to pass the axe to someone else, stand side by side facing the same direction. Pass the head of the axe first.</p>	
<p>Inappropriate use of saw – leading to injury of self or others</p> <p>Cuts, lacerations, severe injury</p>	All	<p>Group safety briefing at beginning of event, giving clear guidelines on when, where and how saws can be used</p> <p>Saws used in clearly defined area (consider use of roping off if this is mobile)</p> <p>YP supervised at all times when in saw use area, group size to reflect level of supervision and space available.</p> <p>Leaders to assess and monitor individuals competence with saw</p> <p>Yp and adults given guidance on saw use, including using a sawing block, adopting a safe stance to protect fingers and legs, wearing appropriate clothing and PPE,</p>	
<p>Inappropriate use of knife - leading to injury of self or others</p> <p>Cuts, lacerations, severe injury</p>	All	<p>Bushscout knife kit can only be used by adults who have completed a Buschout training course.</p> <p>Group safety briefing at beginning of event, giving clear guidelines on when, where and how knives can be used and information about knife law and safety.</p> <p>YP supervised at all times when using knives, group size to reflect group's skills and level of supervision available. Leaders to assess and monitor individual's competence with knife.</p> <p>YP given safety skills instruction YP not to create sharp weapons (eg. spears) and play with them</p>	

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<p>Maintenance, Storage and Transport of sharp tools – leading to failure of tools and accidental injuries</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>Store sharp tools in designated storage cupboard in the office. Count out sharp items and be clear on how many are being used. Count them back in to make sure they're all returned. Lock cupboard.</p> <p>Young people not allowed to retain their own equipment, sharp items must be handed in and stored under leader supervision and only given out when adult supervision available. Inspect tools before use. Axes should not have loose heads or handles and should align properly. Saws and knives should have securely fitting blades and handles. Carry an axe properly: it should be in your hand with your arm by your side, the axe bit should face forward, and your fingers should be out of the way. Saws and knives should have blades covered/ closed when carrying them. Do not use blunt tools Tools should be clean and dry and oiled before being put back into storage</p>	
<p>Inappropriate Clothing and PPE – leading to entanglement and injury</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Don't wear scarves, ties, lanyards, or any loose clothing or jewellery. Tie back long hair to prevent tools from getting caught. Provide sturdy gloves for use when cutting wood using axes and saws. Ensure sturdy, well fitting footwear is worn when using sharp tools. Boots should be worn for axe use. Ensure clothes and footwear are well secured; shoelaces tied, coats done up etc.</p>	
<p>Behaviour or over excitement – risk of injuries from mistakes or misuse</p>	<p>All present</p>	<p>Consider the suitability of the group for this type of activity. Have a section code of conduct to set clear expectations of behaviour. Stress the importance of being responsible when using sharp tools. Cease the use of sharp tools if members of the group are not following the rules.</p>	
<p>Individual needs and preferences – exclusion and lack of alternative provision</p>	<p>Individuals</p>	<p>Make adjustments to the activity to support individual needs Have suitable alternative activities for YP who are not taking part in using sharp tools Inform and consult parents beforehand</p>	

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Cutting area – risk of injury	All present	Make sure cutting area is of a safe size and at a safe distance Mark out cutting area using rope or tape Clear ground of trip hazards in cutting area Cutting area to be kept clear and tidy Only designated group to be allowed in cutting area at any one time	
Collecting and handling wood – injuries from wood and wood pile Splinters, puncture wounds, cuts, slips, trips, falls	All	Sturdy gloves can be worn when handling fire wood Sturdy shoes to be worn YP briefed on safety around wood pile in-situ. Supervision at wood pile may be necessary if group does not show sufficient understanding. YP guided on being careful around wood pile and when walking around site, particularly where pallets may have nails in. Wood piles never to be climbed on When carrying wood, only carry what you can easily manage. Work in pairs/ small groups if necessary When breaking wood, be mindful of flying debris. Ensure area is clear	
Injuries – first aid required	All present	Make sure there's a first aid kit and a first aider on hand. Ensure an emergency response system is in place and all Leaders and helpers know what to do. Purple Cards issued and kept to hand	
<p>What other Hazards arising do you need to consider? Never be afraid to stop an activity if it is becoming unsafe!</p> <p>There are Example risk assessments to use as a starting point 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.</p>			

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