

Risk assessment – Knife Activity

Name of activity, event, and location	8 th Chelmsford knives/knifework activity	Date of risk assessment	12 th June 2024 12 th June 2025	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Christopher Birt
		Date of next review	20/07/2027 V0		

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?
Illegal use of knives - UK Law Risk of prosecution	All members	Leader in charge of Knife Activity to be familiar with UK law and to refresh understanding before each event, in case of changes in the law. Leader in charge to brief all young people about knife law basics. https://www.gov.uk/buying-carrying-knives	
Not running an appropriate Scout activity Risk of not following Scouting advice	All members	The leader in charge to ensure activity considers the latest Scouting guidance. https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/safety/safe-camping-residential-and-outdoor-skills/scout-knife-safety-guidance/advice-for-running-a-knife-s-kills-session-with-your-scout-section/	
Inadequate storage Risk of injury from unauthorised access / unsupervised use	All members	Knives to be stored in a lockable container when not in use. Container to be stowed away/out of sight of young people, eg store room, locked cupboard, leaders tent. Leader in charge / supervising adults to allocate & collect in all knives before/after activity. Leader in charge responsible for ensuring all knives are accounted for.	
Lack of parental consent Use of knives against parents wishes	All members	Leader in charge to obtain explicit consent from parent/guardian for every young person participating in the activity. (written or electronic form).	

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for leaders and at scouts.org.uk/safety

UKHQ template published January 2023

Risk assessment – Knife Activity

Inadequate supervision Risk of injury	All members	Scout to leader ratio guidance of 3 young persons per leader, up to a maximum of 6 per leader dependent on experience/maturity of participants. Supervising adults to be assigned specific scouts to be responsible for during activity. Leaders in charge to ensure supervising adults are aware of the safe use instructions as per documented in this risk assessment.	
Lack of awareness of safe use Risk of injury from inappropriate use	All members Spectators	Leader in charge to brief all young people on safe use - to include the following: - A knife is a tool, not a weapon. Any misuse (pointing at others, waving, throwing) will result in exclusion from the activity. - A knife must always be in a sheath when not in use. - A knife must always be in a sheath when passed between participants/adults - ensure plenty of space around you when using a knife. (arms length+length of tool) - A knife blade must always be used away from the body, never towards. - A knife must be used in slow, controlled motions. - scarves to be removed/tucked in. No loose clothing. Hair tied back. Leader in charge responsible for ensuring the following: - The knife activity area is well defined and spectators/participants aware of boundaries. - good lighting for the activity.	
Inexperienced knife users Risk of injury	Participants	Leader in charge to issue protective gloves to participants (for non-knife holding hand), based on experience and maturity.	
Misuse of knife during activity Risk of injury	All members Spectators	Supervising adults to immediately stop the misuse and safely remove knives from young people. Leader to explain to the young person the significance of their actions. Young person to be excluded from the rest of the knife activity.	
Complications from injury Inadequate first aid available	All members	Leader in charge to ensure that: - A first aid kit is accessible for the activity. - qualified first aider in attendance.	

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.

You can find more information in the [Safety checklist for leaders](https://scouts.org.uk/safety) and at scouts.org.uk/safety

UKHQ template published January 2023