

EXAMPLE OF A SIMPLE RISK ASSESSMENT – Taking A Group Geocaching

Hazard Identified & Risks Arising	Persons at Risk	How Is The Risk Controlled? What Further Controls Are Needed?	Person Responsible for controls	Review Date & Revisions Made?
<p>Hazard – anything that could cause harm. E.g. equipment or conditions.</p> <p>Risk – the chance that someone will be harmed by the hazard.</p>		<p>Control – an action, equipment or procedure that will help to reduce the potential for harm from a particular hazard.</p>		
<p>Equipment</p> <p>Hazard: Person Swinging a GPS</p> <p>Risk: Hit by swinging GPS</p>	<p>All Scouts and Leaders</p>	<p>Instruction at start of event about not swinging round the GPS on a lanyard, keep looking for this.</p>	<p>Leader with competent person.</p> <p>Leaders</p>	
<p>Roads and Traffic</p> <p>Hazard: Collision with traffic,</p> <p>Risk: Inexperience of road use and equipment.</p>	<p>Scout, particularly the younger</p>	<p>Instruction and training of geocachers PLUS careful supervision on the event itself.</p> <p>Use of High Visibility jackets/vests if near roadside.</p> <p>Walking on roadside without path should be toward oncoming Traffic</p>	<p>Leader with a competent person</p> <p>Leaders</p>	
<p>Group Risks</p> <p>Searching as a group and potential for losing members.</p>	<p>Scout, particularly the younger</p>	<p>Always look in pairs or more, Scout to bring phone and given an event Leaders number</p> <p>Occasionally get them to stop and have a head count – use a list or register if necessary.</p>	<p>Leaders</p> <p>Event Leader</p>	

		Use a 'shepherd' at the rear of the group. Have mobile phones available incase.		
Weather Conditions Hazard: Heat / cold / wet Risk: Sunburn/Heatstroke/Hyperthermia	All Scouts and Leaders	Ensure the correct clothing, including waterproofs are advised and carried on the day. Check before setting off. Drinks.	Leaders	
Hazard: Dangerous / slippery paths conditions due to rain or ice Risk: Falling or tripping	All Scouts and Leaders	Check conditions and postpone the event if necessary.	Event Leader	
<p>The items above are just an example of some things to consider. Your risk assessment should reflect any localised conditions or timings that apply</p>				

EXAMPLE OF A SIMPLE RISK ASSESSMENT – Scouts Geocaching without leader

Situation	Hazards (some examples)	Do I need to create a written risk assessment?	Examples of controls that might need documenting
<p>Scouts Geocaching with out leader for event</p>		<p>recording those present.</p> <p>If ther are walking, look at the route and think how you will manage checkpoint along the way. Write down those significant hazards that will need controlling, such as crossing roads or heavy traffic.</p> <p>If you are arranging, Phone for contact or PMR Radio per group or to contact checkpoints to keep track.</p>	<p>If walking, good supervision is vital and aids such as Hi Viz jackets at checkpoint for some or all of the leaders at may be suitable.</p>
<p>Scouts Geocaching with out leader for event</p>	<p>Roads</p> <p>Weather</p> <p>Terrain</p> <p>Lakes & Rivers</p> <p>Cooking food</p>	<p>The key to this activity being controlled lies in the form of a written plan for the event to help identify the hazards and risks present. The controls become part of your programme for delivering troop activities building up to the hike.</p> <p>Consider the differing approach to hazards between groups accompanied by adults and those where the young people are acting on their own.</p> <p>Scouts perception of risk is very different to adults due to their life experience and therefore, short, written bullet points (based on your risk assessment) might be an answer. Better still – get them to do the risk assessment themselves with some adult support.</p> <p>Consider the hazards arising from the terrain in which the event will take place – rocks, water, woods. A set of agreed rules about these might prove useful.</p> <p>A detailed kit list, put together with the input of the</p>	<p>Plan carefully the areas and possible routes being used.</p> <p>Any written risk assessment for the activity should include the pre-event training given to the Scouts as one of the controls in place. It is simply part of the learning by doing method which is a natural part of Scouting.</p> <p>Discuss their plans for changing weather conditions, escape routes and have a kit check before they leave to ensure they are properly equipped.</p> <p>Agreed emergency procedures.</p> <p>There is a factsheet FS320004 – Camp Food Safety which provides easy to use guidelines about preparation and cooking.</p> <p>It is important that the safe use of stoves or fires is established and safe cooking methods understood by the Scouts. Practise makes perfect.</p>