

5th Dunstable ScoutGroup - Risk Assessment

Version	Produced By	Date	Content
1	Ian Ellis	11/12/2020	Knives
2	Jenny Ryder	21/06/23	
3	Jenny Ryder	27/6/25	

Knife work			Date of next review
Hazard/Risk	To Whom	Controls	Changes which need controlling
Hazard - Incorrect/unsafe use. Risk - Injury/death.	All	Competent leader to carry out a safety briefing/training on the correct use of knives. Participants to be positioned at a safe distance apart when using knives. Anybody acting in an unsafe manner is to be stopped and not allowed to carry on until further training is provided. Leaders to supervise as appropriate for age group.	18/12/22
Hazard - Blunt knives. Risk - Injury.	All	All knives to be inspected before use. Blades must be in good condition and sharp* and handles secure - or suitable for the material being used see notes on Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs below.	
Hazard - Unauthorised use of knives. Risk - Injury/death.	All	Knives owned by Scouts to be handed to a leader on arrival and only returned during supervised knife work or at the end of the event. Knives to be replaced in a locked box after activity.	
Hazard - Knives not in use Risk - Injury/death	All	Knives to be replaced in sheath when not in use.	
Hazard - Behaviour. Risk - Injury/death	All	Stress the importance of good behaviour when using knives. If behaviour becomes unacceptable the activity is to be stopped immediately.	
Hazard - Clothing. Risk - Injury	All	Wear appropriate clothing avoiding scarves, lanyards and loose items. Long hair is to be tied back.	
Craft knife usage	All	Craft cutting surface and metal safety ruler to be used at all times	

Considerations for Squirrels			
Hazard/Risk	To Whom	Controls	Changes which need controlling
Unsupervised use of knives	All	Squirrels are not permitted to bring their own knives to events	
Hazard - Incorrect/unsafe use. Risk - Injury/death.	All	Knife work can be taught to Squirrels using blunt knives (such as plastic knives) and a soft materials (such as clay, soft fruit).	
Considerations for Beavers			
Hazard/Risk	To Whom	Controls	Changes which need controlling
Unsupervised use of knives	All	Beavers are not permitted to bring their own knives to events	

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Hazard - Incorrect/unsafe use. Risk - Injury/death.	All	Knife work to be supervised one-to-one. Knife work can be taught to Beavers using blunt knives (such as plastic knives) and a soft materials (such as clay or soap). In this case supervision be one adult to a small group of Beavers.	

Considerations for Cubs

Hazard/Risk	To Whom	Controls	Changes which need controlling
Unsupervised use of knives	All	Cubs are not permitted to bring their own knives to events	
Hazard - Incorrect/unsafe use. Risk - Injury/death.	All	Knife work to be supervised one to one.	

Considerations for Scouts

Hazard/Risk	To Whom	Controls	Changes which need controlling