

Risk assessment

Litter Picking



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

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Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Litter picking	Date of risk assessment	August 2024	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Jane Leadbetter GLV
		Date of next review	August 2026		

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?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	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.	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.
For example: Hazard: fire Risk: smoke inhalation or burns	Leaders, visitors, Young Leaders, Scouts	Smoke: use dry wood, check wind direction, stand people out of smoke direction. Burns: stay a safe distance from fire, place extra wood on carefully, teach Scouts good practice around fires, have a burns first aid kit easily available.	
Roads/car parking: moving vehicles. Risk: injury	Leaders, young people, adult volunteers	Leaders to prompt EVERYONE on Green Cross code and road safety prior to activity. Leaders to ensure everyone wears hi viz jackets. Leaders to raise their voices if traffic is loud. Use pedestrian crossings if crossing dual carriageways Minimum two leaders/adults per group Communications via sections WhatsApp groups.	
Equipment Risk: injury due to not using equipment	Leaders, young people, adult volunteers	Leaders to supply litter pickers and hoops with bags. Only litter pickers to be used to pick litter. If hands are needed ask a leader. Option to wear gloves for protection. Bags of litter will be collected by the council.	
Weather: rain before and during the activity, hot weather causing heat exhaustion or sun stroke	Leaders, young people, adult volunteers	The leader will monitor the weather in advance. If bad weather is forecast the activity will be postponed. Leaders will advise participants on suitable clothing to wear (including sun cream and waterproofs) Leaders will check all persons clothing and have hi-viz jkts for children.	
Terrain: uneven ground, branches, etc Risk :injury	Leaders, young people, adult volunteers	Leaders will check the suitability of the outdoor spaces. Sturdy shoes (no flip flops or open toe sandals, crocs or bare feet.) to be worn by all. Long trousers will be advised. First Aider to be made available	
Security: lost children & boundaries	Young people	Leaders will set clear boundaries with all present. Leaders will monitor young people and make sure no one wanders off. Leaders will do regular head counts. Leader in Charge to have emergency numbers and fully charged mobile phone. All groups to communicate via section WhatsApp groups	

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Hygiene: cuts & touching litter	Leaders, young people, adult volunteers	Only litter pickers are to be used to pick up litter. Any suspicious objects to be handled by an adult. Any sharp object to be wrapped in newspaper. Everyone to wash hands/hand sanitize after litter picking.	
Biological hazards: risk of contamination with needles, nappies or offensive waste	Leaders, young people, adult volunteers	Any hazards of this nature to be dealt with by an adult. Wrap up any undesirable/hazardous waste in newspaper.	
Contact with the public: risk of verbal or physical abuse	Leaders, young people, adult volunteers	Group members recognised by hi-viz jackets Regular headcounts of youth members at all times Leaders to lead their small group to a different area if appropriate. Contact 999 if there is an emergency. Leaders and adult volunteers to avoid direct contact with members of the public during litter picking session. Stand still if a dog approaches.	

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.

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