



Safety Precaution in Scout Pioneering

This Circular substitutes Activity Guideline No. 01/2021 issued on 15 May 2021.

Scout Pioneering is one of the most popular scouting activities. Accidents may occur during such activities, and certain accidents (such as falls, drowning, etc.) may be fatal. In order to maintain safety at an optimum level, it is important that one has to be aware of the safety precautions and understands the potential risks that may occur during the activity. To reduce hazards and avoid accident, all Scout leaders and youth members should note and comply with the following guidelines on “Safety Precaution in Scout Pioneering” in conducting Pioneering at Scout venues (including but not limited to Tai Tam Scout Centre, Gilwell Campsite, Pak Sha Wan T.W.C. Sea Activity Centre, Tung Tsz Scout Centre and other Scout venues where Pioneering equipment is available).

A. Safety in Manpower:

1. Recognized Pioneering Training

Responsible leaders are required to hold the Leader pioneering certificate, which include,

- i. Certificates from Pioneering Courses of the Scout Skill Courses;
- ii. Certificate of Pioneering Refresher Workshop; or
- iii. Certificate of Pioneering Course (levels 1 to 3) or Pioneering Proficiency levels 1 to 3 of the Scout Accreditation Scheme

If the above certificates were obtained prior to 15 June, 2014, the responsible leaders must also hold a Pioneering Safety Workshop Certificate in order to be recognized as holding a recognized Pioneering Training Certificate.

2. Recognized First Aid Training

At least one Scout Leader responsible for first aid should be present during the pioneering activity; such Scout Leader should hold a valid 30-hour first aid course certificate or higher qualification recognized by the Association or Labour Department under the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance, Chapter 509 of the Laws of Hong Kong.

3. Appropriate Ratio of Leader and Participants

The leader to participant ratio should not be less than 1:8 in all pioneering activities / workshops / training courses (exception to non-risk activities and indoor sessions).

B. Safety-at-height

1. Project Structure

To ensure the safety of participants, in situations that require movement of body up and down at a level two metres or more, the participant must be protected by a belayer using the “Top Rope Belay Technique”.

2. At a height up to or more than 2 meters above the ground

All activities at a height two metres or more, participants must be protected by a safety belt if there is no working platforms and guard-rails, the free end of the safety belt should be fastened to a fixed item. If no fixed item is available, the free end of the safety belt should be fastened to a firm place of the pioneering project.

3. At a height less than 2 metres

For activities at a height less than 2 metres, responsible leaders may protect participants by using a safety belt or by “spotting” as a kind of free hand protection.

4. Safety Helmet

Participants should wear safety helmet when doing pioneering at high place or when there is someone working above.

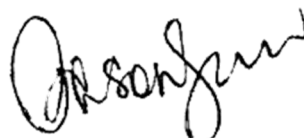
C. Water Safety

When conducting Pioneering activities on the water, in addition to following the instructions given by the local scout activity centre, all participants are required to pass a water test and wear life jackets throughout the activity.

Minor pioneering projects (tabled below) that are usually built during Group gathering and camping are not restricted by the above guidelines, but responsible leaders should still ensure members to play safely.

| Category | Projects* |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tower and Lifting | Ten-minute Tower, Derrick. |
| Bridge and Crossing | Commando Bridge, Patrol Swing Bridge (vertical spar is fixed with “guylines”), Swamp. |
| Raft (build on land only) | Bamboo and Spar Raft, Catamaran, Sausage Raft, Coracle, Oil Drum Raft, Outrigger Raft, Tarpaulin Raft. |
| Fun and Game / Camp Gadgets | Bouncing Bazooka, Flaming Bolt Launcher, Guided Missile Launcher, Scout Staff Ballista, Skylite, Wigan Flagstaff, Skylon Weathercock, Trestle, Land Yacht, Secret Weapon, Counter-Balance Gate, Camp Gadgets: shoes rack, notice board, patrol camp gate, camp table, etc. |

(*Note: References of the named projects can be made to the latest publications on Scout Pioneering of the Association.)



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