

Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme - Applicants' Guide



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Introduction

This factsheet provides a guide to Applicants wishing to gain an adventurous activity permit. It should be read in conjunction with the factsheet FS120084 Scout Led Activities Index, and Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scout Association. More detailed information on the scheme, for Approved Assessors, responsible Commissioners, and for each activity can be found in separate factsheets.

The Permit Scheme

An adventurous activity permit allows you to lead that activity for young people within Scouting. It shows people in Scouting, the young people and their parents that you have the necessary skills and experience to be able to lead these important activities. Details of which activities are classed as adventurous can be found in POR.

The Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme is a national scheme, so when you have a permit it will allow you to lead the activity for young people from any District or County. Each permit can be tailored to the level that your skills, experience and requirements justify, meaning that restrictions may be placed on such matters as areas, venues or facilities. This ensures that you can lead activities at the right level.

Types Of Permits

There are three levels of permit available:

- 1 **Personal** – These permits allow under 18s to take part in adventurous activities without the need for someone with a leadership or supervisory permit to be present. They can participate with others with personal permits, but

can not participate with or lead anyone without a permit. This type of permit is only suitable for an under 18.

- 2 **Leadership** – These permits allow you to lead an activity for a group of young people. You need to remain with the group throughout the activity.
- 3 **Supervisory** – These permits allow you to remotely supervise a number of groups taking part in the activity.

Further details of how these permits work for each activity can be found in the factsheet for the specific activity.

What Will Be Assessed?

To gain a permit you will be assessed in four areas:

- 1 Technical Competence
- 2 Knowledge of Scout Association Rules for the activity
- 3 Child Protection (not for personal permits)
- 4 Personal Suitability

The last two will be checked by your responsible Commissioner (see FS120103 Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme - Commissioners' Guide), Rule Knowledge will be checked by the responsible Commissioner or a County Assessor, and Technical Competence by an Approved Assessor (see FS120104 Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme – Approved Assessors).

During your Technical Competence assessment you will be assessed for your technical skills, knowledge and experience relevant to the activity. This is likely to be through a practical

assessment, except where you hold an appropriate National Governing Body award or a renewing an identical permit, and you have recent on-going experience. This assessment is not supposed to trick you or catch you out. It is to assess your level of technical competence. Full details of the syllabus you will be assessed against can be found in the appropriate Assessment Checklist. If you are unsure about anything to do with the assessment or how it will be run, please talk to your Approved Assessor beforehand.

If the Approved Assessor or responsible Commissioner recommends certain restrictions on your permit they should let you know why this is. They should also be able to tell you what further experience or skills you require to gain a permit with fewer restrictions.

You should be aware that an Approved Assessor may also fail some or all aspects of your assessment, or your responsible Commissioner may consider you unsuitable to lead adventurous activities.

Training And Support

There is no compulsory training scheme that you need to complete before going forward for an assessment. The important aspect is being able to prove you have the skills during the assessment, not where you got them from. However there are a number of places that you can find training and support.

We would always recommend the training courses accredited by National Governing Bodies as some of the best places to learn skills. Alternatively there are a number of Scout Counties, Districts and teams that provide activity training and opportunities to gain experience in an open format. We hope to publish details of courses on the Activities pages of ScoutBase UK.

Also, being a member of a National Governing Body, or similar activity body, and keeping up to date with their publications, may also help maintain your understanding of standards and issues.

Each County also has a local support structure for Activities led by the ACC Activities. This is probably a useful person to contact initially who can then put you in contact with specialist County Activity Advisers or teams.

Using Your Permit

Once you have gained your permit you can use it to run the activity it is for up to the level permitted by any restrictions placed on it. Please remember though that POR requires all activities to have the approval of the responsible Commissioner and that they are operated within the Rules of POR. Please also remember that although there is no requirement to hold a first aid qualification to gain an activity permit, and that your permit will remain valid whether you hold a first aid qualification or not, you are required to have a first aid holder present at every activity to the level laid down in POR.

Applying For A Permit

To get a permit you should apply directly to an Approved Assessor. There are a number of ways that you can find an Approved Assessor, more details on which are detailed below. You can find an application form (ADACTPERMIT) on the Activities pages or factsheet library of ScoutBase UK that can either be printed off and filled in, or filled in online to enable emailing. Although there is no requirement to get approval from anyone in applying for a permit, it is good practice to let your GSL and responsible Commissioner know of your intentions beforehand. They can often provide valuable guidance and support.

Once you have been assessed by the Approved Assessor, they will fill in a recommendation for the level of permit they believe your skills and experience are capable of fulfilling. This recommendation is not a permit on its own. You must take this recommendation to your responsible Commissioner who will deal with the other areas to be checked before granting you your permit. This should ensure that recommendations are not lost in the post leaving you waiting without a permit. When your permit

is granted you will be given a permit card and your permit will be recorded on the Membership Services database.

How To Find An Approved Assessor

There are three ways you can find an Approved Assessor:

- 1 **In Your County** – Counties appoint a number of County Assessors for the activities within the permit scheme. It might be that they run assessment courses, or they might deal with individual Applicants as they apply. Speak to your ACC Activities to find out whether your County has a County Assessor and how you can make contact with them.
- 2 **From Another County** – The Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme is a national scheme, so it makes no difference which County you are assessed by. We hope to publish open assessment courses on the Activities pages of ScoutBase UK. This can be a very positive way of being assessed as you can get to meet a number of other Approved Assessors and Applicants to share ideas with. Alternatively, if there are no applicable courses running, you may also be able to find contact details of County Assessors from other Counties on ScoutBase UK who might be able to arrange to meet up with you for your assessment.
- 3 **External Assessors** – If you cannot find a County Assessor to assess you, it is possible to use an External Assessor such as a commercial provider. To be an External Assessor they must hold the relevant National Governing Body Award for the activity as laid down in the factsheet FS120104 Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme – Approved Assessors. Please remember when using an External Assessor that they are likely to have little or no knowledge of Scouting and the Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme. You will therefore need to make sure that you explain what is expected of them and supply them with copies of the applicable Activity Checklist and FS120102 Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme – Assessors' Guide.

Useful Links

[FS120084](#) Scout Led Activities Index
(References relevant Rules and guidance)

[FS120100](#) Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme