

Health, safety and environment

Group policy

Our vision is for young people to experience enjoyable challenge and adventure in an environment which is safe and healthy for both them and the volunteers who support them. We believe that the things we do are never so urgent or important that we cannot take time to do them safely and with respect for the environment.

Wherever we carry out our activities we must make sure that we maintain a safe, healthy and sustainable environment and promote a positive culture of continual improvement. Wherever we carry out our activities, we are committed to the prevention of injury, ill health and pollution including seeking to reduce the amount of carbon produced and the sustainable use of global resources, while reducing our waste through good waste management and recycling.

We will:

- define policy and procedures to protect the environment and the health and safety of those to whom we owe a duty of care
- provide all the necessary resources for the implementation of our policy and procedures
- identify, train and use necessary and competent resources within a defined structure, and allocate health, safety and environmental responsibilities to people who have the necessary skills
- promote a strong health, safety and environmental culture based on active and visible leadership
- meet and, where appropriate, exceed any legal and other requirements that apply
- identify and assess the health, safety and environmental hazards, impacts and risks from our activities and services
- consider the input of adult volunteers, parents and others with an interest in our group when making decisions relating to health, safety and environmental matters, and be sure that we understand applicable local sustainability challenges
- set health, safety and environmental objectives and targets that reflect legal requirements and any risks we have identified, and show that we are seeking to continuously improve
- develop and introduce plans to make sure we achieve agreed objectives and manage identified risks
- consider the sustainable use of resources and materials and actively manage the impacts of our business activities on the environment with the aim of minimising, and where possible, eliminating them
- investigate and report on incidents to identify areas where we need to make improvements and prevent further problems
- monitor, review and report our performance, measured against set objectives and targets
- regularly review the suitability and effectiveness of our systems, and identify improvements we need to make to our procedures to achieve continual improvement.

We will put this policy into practice by creating a culture that actively encourages good health, safety and environmental practices and by applying effective policies, standards, systems and processes. Everybody who volunteers for us must act in a safe way and consider environmental issues when making decisions and taking action.

Jon Carter
Group Scout Leader

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