

Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme - Assessor Forums



Item Code FS120105 Jul/06 Edition no 1

0845 300 1818

Introduction

Under the Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme, County Assessors are required to undertake the equivalent of two days of technical updates during their five year appointment. Some may do so by attending workshops organised by National Governing Bodies or external bodies, or working with a person with a higher qualification (e.g. hillwalking/climbing with an MIA/MIC, caving with a CIC). Some Scout Counties may wish to run their own forums or workshops, and these guidance notes have been produced to assist.

Content

A number of broad objectives should be set. We suggest the following:

- Brief Assessors in technical matters that have been updated in their activity.
- Assist Assessors in the constructive briefing of participants and conduct of assessments using guided practice.
- Learn / revise assessing skills.
- Share good practice in relation to the activity.
- Assist Assessors with self moderation of their own assessments using shared practise.

Duration

From experience, many Assessors enjoy operating within their practical activity environment. Whilst this could mean that a weekend is devoted, this is not necessarily the only avenue and one-day or evening sessions may fit in better with Assessors' other time commitments.

Technical Input

Many Assessors, being volunteers, only have limited time in their activity and the number of assessments they can undertake. Therefore, forums should be supported by a Technical Adviser who should be able to add a great deal of value to the format and content of the session, as well as being able to answer questions. The minimum recommended level of qualification for a Technical Adviser is the same as that laid down for External Assessors in the factsheet FS120104 'Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme – Approved Assessors'. Funding is available to help with the costs of providing a Technical Adviser, details of which can be found on ScoutBase UK under Activity Training and Assessment.

Care should be taken in selecting a Technical Adviser since some may not be acquainted with The Scout Association's Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme and the overall objectives and structures of the Association in developing young people. Time should be taken in briefing them.

An additional advantage of forming a relationship with a Technical Adviser is that it may have long term benefits in supporting NGB accredited training or assisting with activities at a higher level.

Promotion

As one of the main benefits of these forums is the networking and peer support for Assessors, it is often nice to have a mix of Assessors from across the country present. If you would like help promoting a forum or workshop to the movement you can send details of the event to the Activities Office who will promote it on ScoutBase UK.

Format

The event should be a combination of indoor and outdoor work, dealing with various situations and scenarios. There is only so much you can take with Powerpoint presentations, or learn from large plenary sessions!

Sessions should start with a briefing and setting of tasks by the Technical Adviser. Small groups should look at specific subjects or areas and discuss the elements and what can be learned, so that they are in a position to feed this information back to the rest of the group.

Each small group should have a facilitator - someone skilled in keeping the group on-track, as well as having the practical skills for the activity. This could be the Technical Adviser or someone experienced in the activity or facet of the activity, briefed by the Technical Adviser.

Those acting as facilitators may wish to contact their County Training Manager who may be able to assist in training in facilitation and other skills (The Association's Adult Training Scheme has Modules to cover Instructing Practical Skills, Facilitating, Presenting and Assessing Learning)

Plenary sessions could be used for feedback and general questions and answers.

Providing Evidence

At the end of your forum, each person should be provided with a letter stating:

- Who organised the forum (Organiser, County, Technical Adviser)
- Length of time
- Subjects covered

Feedback to Headquarters

A short report should be sent to Headquarters. This will allow us to monitor the level of activity, nationally, in supporting Assessors and amend guidelines in the future. A form to help with this can be found on ScoutBase UK under Activity Training and Assessment.