

# Ice Climbing



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## Introduction

This factsheet looks to give the facts a person would need to know to run Ice Climbing for a group of young people, or to do it for themselves if they are a young person. It should be read in conjunction with the factsheet FS120084 Scout Led Activities Index, and Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scout Association.

## What is Ice Climbing?

Ice Climbing generally refers to the climbing of ice formations such as icefalls and frozen waterfalls, although there are now also artificial ice climbing walls available. Climbing is normally done through the use of ice axes and crampons.

## What is an Ice Climbing Permit?

The adventurous activity permit scheme is designed to ensure that only people with the relevant skills and experience lead adventurous activities for the young people. Therefore all activities classed as adventurous can only be lead by someone holding the appropriate permit. Additionally young people (under 18) can take part in adventurous activities for themselves with personal activity permits.

An Ice Climbing Permit is required for all Ice Climbing activities.

## Levels of Permit

The only permit for Ice Climbing is an Ice Climbing permit. Each permit can be restricted (such as through specific locations etc) to end up with an individual permit to the level of the competence and requirements of any person.

## Types of Permit

There are three types of permit available for Ice Climbing. These are:

- **Personal** – Allows a young person (under 18) to take part in Ice Climbing with others with a personal Ice Climbing permit.
- **Leadership** – Allows the permit holder to lead Ice Climbing for a single group.
- **Supervisory** – Allows the permit holder to remotely supervise more than one Ice Climbing group.

## Permit Limitations

- **Personal** – If you hold a personal Ice Climbing permit you can go Ice Climbing with others who hold a personal Ice Climbing permit. It does not allow you to go Ice Climbing with anyone not holding a Ice Climbing permit.
- **Leadership** – If you have a permit to lead Ice Climbing you can lead one rope system at a time. Details of group sizes for Climbing can be found in POR.
- **Supervisory** – If you hold a permit to supervise Ice Climbing then you can supervise up to three rope systems at a time. You should remain in a position to be able to effectively supervise and assist all rope systems. You remain responsible for all the groups you are supervising, but can designate someone with the appropriate skills to be the rope leader of each group.

## Designations

When supervising more than one rope system the holder of an Ice Climbing supervisor permit needs to designate a rope leader for each group. This

rope leader can then act as the belayer. This designation lasts only for the current activity while the permit holder is supervising.

People designated as rope leaders should hold the skills, including being able to competently belay, and be responsible enough to lead the rope system that has been set up. There is no problem with making young people rope leaders if they are up to the role, and it can be used as a useful development tool.

### **Useful Links**

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

[FS120086](#) Commercially Led Activities Index

[FS120100](#) Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme