

Risk Assessment - 1st Hoveton and Wroxham Sea Scouts

Name of activity, event and location	Knives – Whittling and Pumpkin Carving	Date of Risk Assessment	26.02.26	Name of Person doing this risk assessment	Nigel Pope Terry Hughes
		Date of next review	26.02.27		

What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
Rough wood – risk of splinters or blisters from handling	All present	Tell people to take care when cutting or snapping wood. Wear strong gloves if you have them – bear in mind that gloves may affect your grip.	
Behaviour or overexcitement – risk of injuries from mistakes or misuse	All present	Have a section code of conduct to set clear expectations of behaviour. Stress the importance of being responsible when using sharp tools. Give young people information and training before they use sharp items. Supervise young people closely while they use sharp items. Continue to assess their competence. Have one adult or young leader for each group – consider the ratio depending on age and behaviour. Count out the sharp items and be clear on how many are being used. Count them back in to make sure they're all returned. Mask items (cover the blade) and store them safely between uses. Plan another activity for Young People whose parents don't want them to take part in practical activities using knives and any who aren't ready for this type of activity. Space out seating	
Struck by sharp tool – risk of injury to non-participants or observers	Young people and leaders	Create a safe cutting area; check guidance for safe size and distances. Don't wear scarves, ties, lanyards or any loose clothing or jewellery and tie back long hair to prevent knives from getting caught. Cover the blade when you're not using it.	

Struck by tool – risk of injury to users	Young people and leaders	<p>Inspect the tools before use. Never use it if the head and handle don't line up or if the head is loose.</p> <p>Don't use a blunt blade.</p> <p>Don't use a blade in poor light.</p> <p>Put a chopping block below wood before you cut it if required</p> <p>Use a kneeling position so if you miss your material the blade won't follow through to your leg.</p> <p>If you're splitting wood, use another stick to hold it up so you can keep your fingers away from the area being cut.</p> <p>Stop using the knife if you feel tired.</p>	
Cuts – from sharing or moving tools	Everyone	<p>Explain how to take a knife out of its sheath safely while keeping your fingers away from the blade.</p> <p>Carry the blade properly: it should be in your hand with your arm by your side, the bit Blade should face forward, and your fingers should be out of the way.</p> <p>Mask/sleeve the blade before you carry it.</p> <p>If you need to pass the knife to someone else, stand side by side facing the same direction. Pass the knife correctly.</p>	
Knife work – risk of slips and cuts	Everyone	<p>Practice your own knife skills before you begin any practical sessions with your section.</p> <p>Explain knife law and safety before you begin.</p> <p>At the end of the session, collect and safely store any tools you've used.</p> <p>Have a suitable, safe storage. Use it to show everyone how to store tools and help them understand why.</p>	
Injuries – first aid required	Everyone	<p>Make sure there's a first aid kit and a first aider on hand.</p> <p>Practice treating and dressing cuts before you start a practical exercise.</p>	
Hazard - Pumpkin carving	All	<p>Carve in a clean, dry area; as well-lit as possible.</p> <p>Ensure appropriate kitchen utensils are used for pumpkin (serrated</p>	

<p>Risk - cuts from knives and sharp utensils</p>		<p>knives and pumpkin saws where possible) Care will need to be taken when cutting pumpkin tops off -Depending on age of young persons this may need to be undertaken by an adult. Ensure Young People are warned about handling knives and sharp utensils and checked that they are using appropriately. Ensure there is sufficient space around Young People to avoid cutting others Appropriate adult supervision of this activity according to age. Ensure if knives get stuck in the pumpkin they are removed by an adult. Ensure that young people do not put their hand inside the pumpkin when carving/ cutting the pumpkin</p>	
<p>Hazard - Wet, pumpkin pulp on floor Risk - Slips and trips</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>No running around the pumpkin carving area. Spills and mess to be cleared away immediately. Adults to remain vigilant and keep the area as clean and dry as possible</p>	