

A Code of good practice for Adults involved with Climbing Activities

It is the Policy of the Scout County of greater London North-East to safeguard the welfare of all members by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

1. When Leading, Supervising, Instructing or assisting any climbing session, no adult shall be alone, at any time, with any young person. There must always be another responsible person in attendance and both must always be in a position to observe the actions of the other. Both must be fully aware of their responsibility, one to the other, and to the young people, in this "buddy" situation. If there are more than two adults then all must comply with the above.
2. At no time will the Leader or assistant/s allow a situation to develop where they cannot see and hear what the other is doing, whilst working with young people.
3. No session shall be run with less than two responsible people being in attendance, if two adults are not available do not run the session. Any responsible person will fit the definition of an assistant, a parent for example (subject to the usual checks. Rule 3.1a. POR)
4. Young people should fit Harnesses to themselves, after demonstration by adults, with visual checks by the adults. Restrict contact to checking tightness of waist belt and tightening of it, if necessary.
5. The safety rope should be threaded through the harness and knotted by the young persons themselves, after demonstration by adults, with visual checks by the adults. (Fitting of gear and knot tying can be taught without physical contact)
6. When instructing the climber on position of hands and feet, do not make physical contact with the climber, verbal instructions only (except in the event of an emergency)
7. If for any reason physical contact around a person's crotch or chest (female) area cannot be avoided, maybe in an emergency, be sure the assistant is in close attendance.
8. Be fully aware of the advice on the yellow card "YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST" and with the advice above, put it into active practice.

The foregoing advice is meant to help protect both young people and adult members of the movement, you are vulnerable no matter how well intentioned you are. By putting into practice the above advice you lessen the risk of being involved in a situation that requires answers, answers which you may find difficult to substantiate, particularly if the Rules of the Association and the foregoing advice should be ignored,

Adult as referred to above shall be taken as a person of a minimum of 18 years of age.