



Somerset
Adult Training

Module 25 (Adventurous Activity Advisers) - Assessing Learning

This presentation pack supplements the learning undertaken for members to work towards an appointment as an **Adventurous Activity Adviser.**

June 2022

Topics covered

Introduction

Understanding the Scheme

How people learn

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Introduction

Introduction

Adventurous Activity Advisers are responsible :

- For supporting and assessing the competence of adults to take responsibility for adventurous activities involving young people.

Adventurous Activity Advisers must:

- Hold the appropriate Adventurous Activity Permit i.e. have the technical skills required to run the Activity level they are assessing.
- Hold a current National Governing Body Qualification (RYA, BCU, PADI etc)
- Have validated Module 25, Assessing Learning (this module), i.e. have the soft skills required to make effective assessments
- Remain up to date with current information about the Activity Permit Scheme and have attended at least two days (14 hours) of technical updates within the last five years.

Understanding the Scheme



Understanding the Activity Permit Scheme

- A national scheme designed to promote adventurous activities and experiences for Members of The Scout Association under 18 years old.
- Any adult wishing to lead a designated Adventurous Activity for members of The Scout Association under 18 years old must hold an appropriate Activity Permit.
- There are three different types of permit available.
 - Personal – maximum age is 17
 - Leadership – lead the activity for young people whilst remaining with them
 - Supervisory – remotely supervising multiple groups
- Adventurous Activity Permits are not Section specific and Districts and Counties must not operate a policy of issuing only Section specific permits.

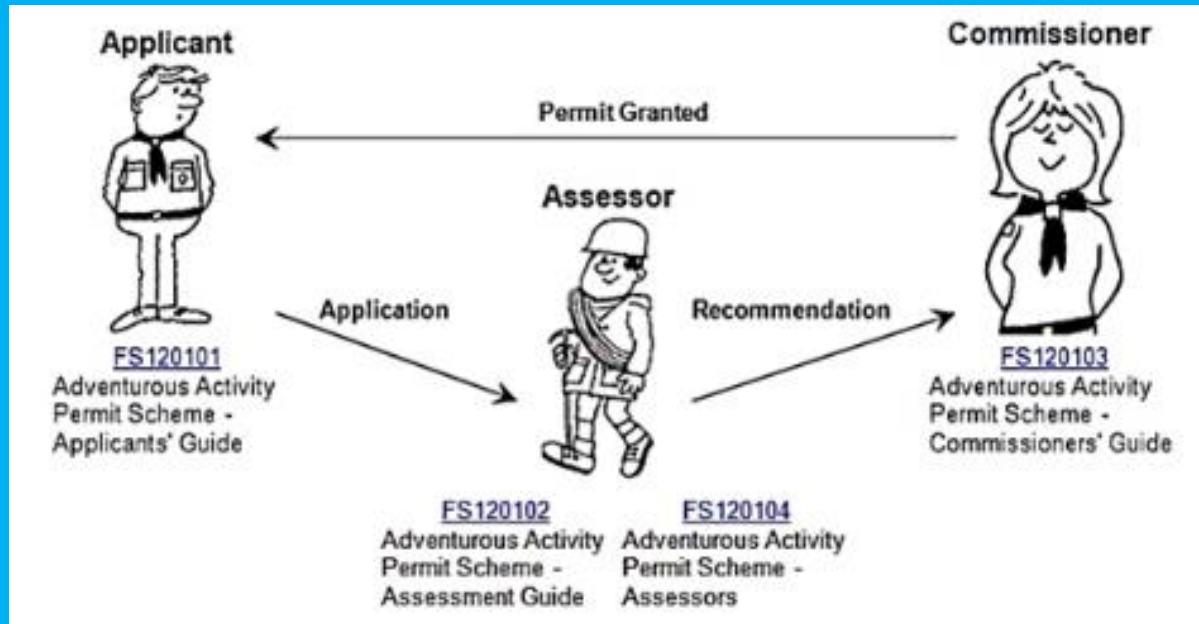
Understanding the Activity Permit Scheme

The following elements are assessed

- Technical Competence – this is the only element which is solely the responsibility of the Assessor. It looks at the specific technical skills required to run the activity. It is usually assessed through a practical assessment although other evidence such as logged experience and other qualifications held can help as well. There is an assessment checklist for each activity listing the skills that will be assessed.
- Scout Association Rules for the specific activity
- Safeguarding
- Personal Suitability

Permits are granted by a Commissioner following recommendation by an Adventurous Activity Adviser. The Commissioner undertakes additional checks ahead of issuance such as mandatory training and suitability

How to obtain a Permit



The Applicant, contacts a Adventurous Activity Adviser, these are County appointments and decide the type of permit required.

The Adventurous Activity Adviser assesses the Applicant; both theory and practical and, if satisfied, recommends a Permit to the responsible Commissioner (DC for District, CC for County).

The responsible Commissioner reviews the assessment and authorises its issue.

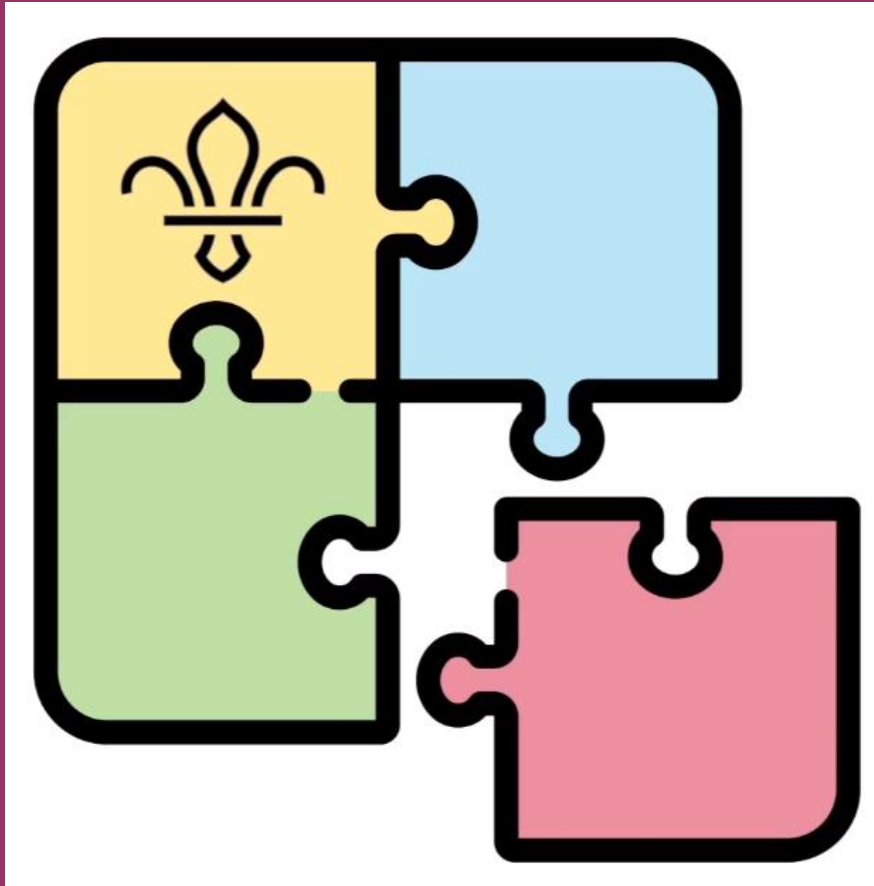
Restrictions

It is possible to recommend a further restriction to a Permit, but only if there is a clear reason to do so.

This is likely to reflect the applicants experience for example:

- Summer walking only
- Climbing in a specified area
- Limiting the number of kayaks or canoes
- Specifying certain artificial climbing / abseiling walls.

In every case, it should be made clear to the applicant why a restriction is in place and what they would need to do to vary or remove that restriction.



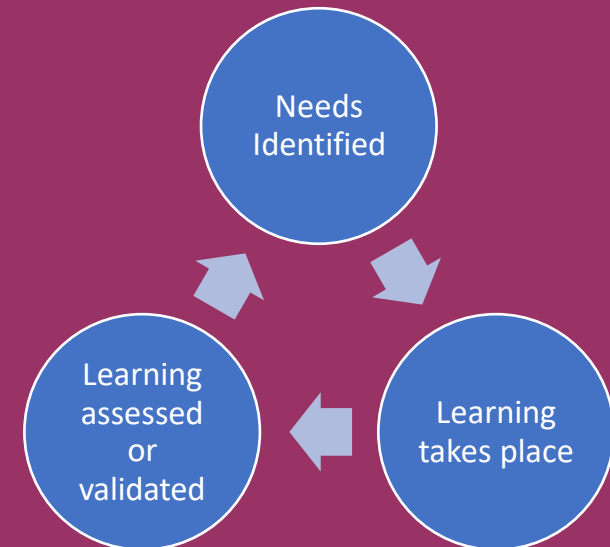
How people learn

How people learn

Learners come from different backgrounds and will have a wide range of prior learning, skills and experience which must be taken into account when assessing their learning needs.

One of the key roles of the Adventurous Activity Adviser is to support adults in learning, not just to make a summative assessment, so identifying the learning needs has to come first, and then supporting them to do any learning required, before assessing.

In some cases this occurs as a cycle:



Questions to consider

- Find out about what experience they already have – in Scouting and out.
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- Ask some questions about Adventurous Activity experiences that they have been involved with and their role on them. Have they held a permit previously?
- Are they aware of Scout Association safeguarding policies and how they apply to these activities?
- Find out why they would like an Activity Permit and what they hope to get out of it.

Questions to consider

- Based on the answers to the above, either:
 - Recommend that they look at the activity information on [Scouts.org.uk](https://www.scouts.org.uk) to see what is required
 - Recommend that they attend some external training through an accredited organisation (RYA, BCA, MLA);
 - Discuss an assessment which they are planning on which you will be able to assess them and arrange a pre-event meeting or contact to begin assessment.

Assessment & Giving Feedback



Assessment

Assessment for the assessor and the learner should be:

- part of a fair process
- enjoyable
- part of an agreed plan
- based on appropriate evidence
- based on everyday Scouting activities
- supportive
- valued
- based on the fundamental values of Scouting

Assessment

A successful validation of training or assessment for a permit is about confirming that somebody is able to do what they are supposed to be able to and that they can carry out their role or the activity safely and effectively and within the policies and rules of The Scout Association.

It is about confirming that the learner has the required knowledge and abilities by checking that they are able to put these into practice in their role

Assessment

Do – encourage the learner to take responsibility for their own learning and assessment / validation and produce their own appropriate evidence.

Do – compare the evidence against the relevant assessment checklist or validation criteria.

Do – sign off the validation or assessment if the evidence demonstrates an understanding of the learning covered by the module, or the assessment criteria for the permit.

Do – show that you value their effort and work

Do – suggest positive things they can do to move forward

Do – ask another Adventurous Activity Adviser or a Commissioner for advice if you are unsure

Assessment

Don't - agree to validate something if you do not feel the evidence is enough / current / relevant

Don't delay processing the outcome by adding to Compass as soon as possible so that the Commissioner gets prompt notification

Don't change your assessment process if placed under time pressure by the learner, you need to maintain standards.

Don't - be afraid to ask the learner for further evidence or further learning if necessary

Feedback

Providing constructive feedback on positive areas and areas to develop is an important part of assessment.

It is one way in which people learn but it must be done in a supportive, honest and fair way.

Try, where possible to be overall positive – consider two or three positive statements for every negative and if you can, start and finish with a positive

Feedback

In addition:

- follow up in writing so that instructions, directions or suggestions are clear
- concentrate on the behaviour, not the person;
- allow time for questions and discussion;
- use open questions and active listening;
- think about the venue;
- ensure both parties have time for the feedback
- be aware of your tone of voice, facial expression and gesture

Where to find help and information



Help & Information

The Scout Website (Scouts.org.uk) also has lots of vital and interesting information :

[Activity Permit List](#)

[Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme](#)

[Applicants Guide](#)

[Assessment Guide](#)

[Activity Checklist](#)

[Becoming an Assessor](#)

[National Governing Body required qualifications list](#)



What Next

What Next

To validate Module 25 (AAA) you will need to

- demonstrate an understanding of the Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme
- outline how you have supported an applicant through the Permit process
- and have made one assessment according to the current Scout Association requirements for the particular activity



Somerset Adult Training

If you have any questions on this material which supports your learning after completion of your Workbook or Course attendance (Module 25 Adventurous Activity Adviser), contact your Training Adviser, your Local Training Manager or Alan Henderson, Deputy County Training Manager at [ltm-
orange@somersetscouts.org.uk](mailto:ltm-orange@somersetscouts.org.uk)