



Scout Climbing Permit Training

Artificial Top Rope Training Courses

Organised and run by volunteer Surrey Scout Leaders.

scouts.org.uk/join

#SkillsForLife

Overview

Training weekends for scout leaders looking to obtain an artificial top rope climbing permit (with or without abseil) are run at Bentley Copse. These are scheduled based on demand, availability of the volunteer instructors and of the climbing and abseil tower.

Is the course right for you?

Whether you're considering assisting another instructor or leading your own sessions this is a comprehensive training weekend covering the whole permit scheme and is suitable for those with or without prior climbing / abseiling experience.

It is an ideal training route to anyone looking to obtain a permit, though does not include a permit assessment during the weekend.

If you are an experienced personal climber, you will learn how your existing experience can be applied – *Or which bad-habits you need to rid yourself of!*

If you have extensive and recent experience of leading climbing and abseil sessions with groups then it is worth discussing your experience with an assessor before booking onto a course.

To attend a course you will need to be a current member of scouting, with up to date safeguarding training and a DBS.

What the course covers

At a fundamental level, the course covers the comprehensive knowledge and skills required to obtain an artificial top rope climbing permit including abseiling:

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/programme-guidance/information-for-volunteers/general-activity-guidance/roped-activities/climbing-and-abseiling/>

This includes:

- **The permit scheme** – Including the different types of scout permits and how these compare to qualifications with similar skill demands such as the Climbing Wall Instructor.
- **The responsibilities of the instructor**
- **Running sessions / working with groups**
- **Demonstrating climbing and movement skills**
- **Personal and group belaying**
- **Selection of equipment** – Options available and its appropriateness for use.
- **Care of equipment** – Storage and checks. The dos and don'ts.
- **Abseil theory and practical skills**
- **Risk assessments & emergencies**
- **Gaining experience for your assessment**
- **How to request and schedule a permit assessment**

What the course does not include

This an artificial top rope training course, it does not include:

- **Assessment** – There will be no assessments during the weekend.
- **Natural rock skills** – While skills such as belaying are transferable, the weekend does not cover climbing or abseiling on natural rock.
- **'High ropes' activities** – Activities with overlapping skills to conventional climbing, such as crate stacking and Jacobs ladder are not covered.

Permit Assessments

A permit assessment is performed by a county climbing assessor, and should be scheduled either with them directly or via Bentley Copse.

These assessments require:

- You to discuss what type of permit you wish to be assessed for and your experience.
- You to book these yourself. You may email bookings@bentleycopse.org.uk
- You to bring six participants, and one additional adult – *Do brief these that they are attending for assessment purposes and therefore may not get a full session of experience.*
- An hour long session for single or two rope climbing.
- An hour long session for abseiling.
- Additional time for discussions with the assessor.

During the assessment the assessor will work through the climbing assessment checklist and require you to demonstrate knowledge and skills for all aspects being assessed for.

<https://prod-cms.scouts.org.uk/media/19665/ac120905-climbing-jan-23.docx>

It would not be customary for those new to instructing climbing or abseiling to obtain a supervisory permit as their first permit.

How to register interest

If you would like to register your interest in training opportunities, please complete this form.

<https://www.bentleycopse.org.uk/booking/climbing-training-register-interest-form/>

Do call or email Jen at Bentley Copse. 01483 202424 or bookings@bentleycopse.org.uk if you have any queries.

Cost for training and assessment

For 2024: Training is £60 per person. Assessments sessions are charged at the standard hourly rate for out of county, or fixed at £50 for Surrey leaders.

For leaders wishing to join the *Bentley Copse Crew* and assist Bentley Copse with activities on a regular basis, free training and assessment is available (Discuss with Jen)