

Nights Away Prompts, Changes and Alerts 13.08.25

Following the discussions amongst the Nights Away Team – it was agreed that we will cover the following issues during new and renewal assessments based on safety alerts, changes to POR and the NA Scheme.

Current NAN Approval Process:

Please note:

Any NANs submitted less than 7 days before the camp will automatically be declined. As a district, we request at least 2 weeks' notice of camps so we can ensure all the checks and reviews are carried out in a timely and unhurried manner

We continue to experience challenges with the nights away system built into "My Membership" on scouts.org.uk.

These include:

- Inability to view historic event approvals and risk assessments in case of query
- Inability to add volunteers outside of permit holder's immediate group/unit
- Some approval requests not routing to approvers in the correct hierarchy
- No email notification of a NAN awaiting review

As such, the DLV has taken the decision to revert back to an online form for NANs until further notice.

This does mean we need to check volunteers learning and DBS manually, however the benefits outweigh the inconvenience at this time.

We will continue to review bug releases on the national system and revert back when it is fit for purpose

The District NAN form can be located by following the link below:

<https://www.mcscouts.org.uk/district-nights-away-form>

All Adults on camp staying overnight to be listed and they will have DBS, Safety and Safeguarding training status checked by the system. All leaders must have all their mandatory training up to date and at least one leader must have an in date First Aid qualification.

Parents/Helpers do not need to complete the Safety or Safeguarding training as a condition of going on camp but they do need to have an enhanced scout DBS. We should encourage them to do the online training as it's a way of possibly easing them into the movement. They should be issued with a yellow card.

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/safe-scouting-cards/safeguarding-code-of-conduct-for-adults-yellow-card/>

The NAN will be forwarded to the District Nights Away Approver – Ian Mackintosh and DLV

Camp RA's will be reviewed and feedback provided by a member of the Nights Away Team. A camp will not be approved until an agreed Risk Assessment for the camp is signed off at District

Note: If there are activities requiring a permit on the camp, a separate notification and RA to go to Steve Richmond as per the approval process for these activities.

Safeguarding on Nights Away Activities

The Scout Association recently updated its advice on safeguarding on Nights Away Activities – please see the link below

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/safeguarding-in-the-programme/nights-away-and-safeguarding/>

Nights Away Prompts, Changes and Alerts 13.08.25

Risk Assessments:

New updated templates on the Scout Website

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/risk-assessments/example-risk-assessments/>

- Reminder about recording and communicating dynamic RA's during camps
- Reminder about communicating the outcomes from the RA to everyone on camp
- Contingency plans should be included in the RA's
- If the contingency plan includes a Permitted Activity – this must be approved as part of the planning process.
- Where pop up tents are used as part of an indoor sleepover, the RA should reflect the additional risk that this causes and how this will be managed in the event of an emergency.

Nights Away Event Passport

Where event passports are issued, ensure that all parents are briefed on how the event will be managed and ensure they are happy with the arrangements.

Where event passports are issued, the NAP holder is still responsible for the night's way activity. The permit holder must put in place a supervision plan which enables them to monitor the group as well as providing a mechanism for the group to raise concerns, issues and challenges should they occur.

Chemical Toilets

If Chemical Toilets are set up on a camp and leaders are responsible for disposal of the waste then this requires a Greenfield Permit. It is possible to hold a Greenfield Permit with restriction for use of chemical toilets on a campsite. The NA team are working to roll this out alongside the Barnswood Team

If a commercial 3rd party provides the toilets and is responsible for removal of the waste then this can be done on a Campsite Permit.

Indoor

Following a question from one of our groups about an overnight event which is not at a scout location e.g. PGL or a Youth Hostel where there may be adults without a DBS present, the advice from the National Safeguarding team is as follows:

The group needs to be clear in their risk assessment that the Scouts group must have separate sleeping accommodation / washing facilities and changing areas to any other groups / individuals.

Adult to Young People Ratios

Following a number of questions around how the minimum number of adults required for an overnight event is calculated, we have developed an interactive spreadsheet to help with this. It can be downloaded from the district website. Note Squirrels can do NA activities Ratios 1:4 plus 1 leader – with a minimum of 3 adults

<https://www.mcscouts.org.uk/members-area/nights-away-residentials>

Fire Brigade Notification

When holding a sleepover/indoor camp at a venue where people do not normally sleep overnight such as Group HQ's, Schools etc, Cheshire Fire Brigade must be informed. This allows them to prioritise any calls they receive to where lives are at risk. The notification form can be downloaded from the district website

<https://www.mcscouts.org.uk/members-area/nights-away-residentials>

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Consall Scout Campsite Staffordshire

Following a number of issues flagged at the Consall Scout Campsite in Staffordshire by one of our groups, if you are considering using this campsite, please discuss with Ian Mackintosh or Mike Brown. A pre camp site visit will be essential prior to using this campsite

Safety Notifications and Incidents last 12 months

Fastboil Stove

We had an issue reported by a leader involving a Fastboil3 stove from ligo.co.uk which he ordered for his personal use. He had had an issue with it catching fire and melting some of the plastic after setting up properly and using the attachment for using pans on the stove (not provided by Fastboil). He also purchased a Jetboil stove for comparison and interestingly there are warnings on the Jetboil Stove only to use the equipment supplied with the stove.



We have not been able to determine the root cause of this issue however we would remind leaders of the following:

1. Ensure that stoves are set up in accordance with the instructions provided by the supplier
2. Do not use stoves inside tents
3. Review the advice on the Scout website on lightweight stoves which can be found here.

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/safety/safe-camping-residentials-and-outdoor-skills/using-gas-safely/lightweight-camping/>

Gas Safety

In the January 25 Members email, there was a link to training on Gas Safety and Carbon Monoxide Safety

https://www.scouts.org.uk/supporters/gas-distribution-networks/?dm_i=7RZB,8D3M,2Q07C7,10X06,1

Kelly Kettles/Storm Kettles

Kelly Kettles are a popular and interesting way to boil water using fire. There are two models of Kelly Kettle; the more recent models supplied with a whistle for the spout, an older model with a cork bung, used to keep water in the kettle during transportation.

An accident occurred recently, where a leader familiar with the new model of kettle was running an activity with Scouts, but using the older model that had been loaned.

By mistake, the leader left the cork bung loosely fitted to the spout, in the same way you would with a whistle. At a point that the kettle started to produce steam, the bung swelled and then shot out of the kettle, fortunately away from the spectators. Where Kelly Kettles are used, irrespective of the model, the safest way to use them is not to put the bung in the kettle.

There is more information on the scout website here

Nights Away Prompts, Changes and Alerts 13.08.25

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/safety/safe-camping-residentials-and-outdoor-skills/storm-kettles/>

Axes and Saws Oct 24

Following an incident on a recent camp where a young person was injured whilst using an axe, we have added information to the Safety page on the website to support leaders running activities with Knives, Axes and Saws. This can be accessed on the link below

<https://www.mcscouts.org.uk/members-area/safety-bulletins>