

Risk Assessment – Weaseling

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Previous RA – 23/05/17

The purpose of this risk assessment is to help identify hazards associated with this activity and to evaluate the risks to determine what measures should be taken to protect the health and safety of guests, Adventure Ardeche staff and members of the public.

Location: Lauzasses de Casteljeau

Description of Activity

Weaseling takes place in the forest at Lauzasses de Casteljeau and involves guests being guided through the forest while undertaking a series of individual, small group or whole team challenges. Examples of challenges include small boulder problems and off-ground traverses, short squeezes, longer tunnels and caves and problem solving / team tasks.

AA Staff member leading the activity to be trained and assessed by senior member of AA Staff before leading the activity. All assistants to be trained to assist the leader instructor as required.

Instructor : student ratio not to exceed 1:8 (including visiting teachers / responsible adults).

Hazard Assessment Checklist

Nature of Hazard	Severity H / M / L	Person(s) at risk	Risk Control
<p>Remote Area</p> <p>Specific Dangers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance / length of time required for outside medical assistance. • Getting lost. • Bites / Stings (insects / snake). 	Low	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA Staff to be First Aid qualified in case of accident. • Comprehensive First Aid Kit / Mobile phone to be carried by lead instructor. • AA Staff know what to do in case of accident requiring outside help. (See Adventure Ardeche Accident Protocol). • AA Staff to carry Accident Protocol Info Card at all times. • AA Staff to be aware of exact location in case outside help required. • AA Staff to be aware of any guests existing medical conditions / allergies and to act in accordance with these. • AA Staff to use all reasonable and practical ways to avoid spreading infection or contamination if administering first aid. • AA Staff to use all reasonable and practical ways to avoid spreading infection or contamination if administering first aid. • Company Vehicle always at site in case guest(s) needs to be evacuated.
<p>Heat / Cold / Extreme Weather</p> <p>Specific Dangers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypothermia (cold / wet). • Hyperthermia (too hot). • Dehydration. • Sun burn / Sunstroke. • Lightening strike. • High Wind 	Low	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Instructor to check weather forecast in advance <u>and</u> on morning of activity. • Guests to be briefed in advance as to appropriate clothing / footwear for expected conditions. • Guest to be told to bring water bottle (1 per person) and sun protection. • AA Staff to have appropriate clothing / footwear. • AA Staff to bring group shelter / spare warm / wet weather clothing in case of poor weather and sun

			<p>protection if hot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra water to be provided by AA Staff and guests encouraged to regularly fill up own bottles. • In the event of high winds AA Staff to monitor situation and stop session if danger posed by falling branches or activity becoming too physically demanding.
<p>Physical Exertion / Abnormal Stress</p> <p>Specific Dangers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest too tired / scared to continue with activity. • Guests suffering from claustrophobia or fear of dark. 	Low	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All guests and AA Staff to operate within their fitness levels. • AA Staff to assess guest's fitness levels and choose appropriate activities to avoid over exertion. • Rest times to be built in to session if required. • AA Staff to contiguously monitor stress levels and to be able to help if required. • AA Staff to ensure guests eat and drink enough to sustain physical activity.
<p>Traffic / other road users</p> <p>Specific dangers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injuries caused by contact with other road users. It is worth noting that cars, mini-busses and motor-bikes occasionally travel very fast on this section of road. Also it is popular with cyclists travelling fast and making very little sound. 	Med	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest transport asked to stop with exit door on side facing layby and not roadside. • AA Staff to be in situ as guests disembark transport to ensure guests do not walk into road. • AA Staff to supervise crossing of road and stop traffic if appropriate.
<p>Uneven / rough terrain on route to weaseling location / during activity.</p> <p>Specific dangers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injuries caused by slips, trips and falls. 	Med	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA Staff to choose appropriate route from car park to weaseling venue and lead the way at a suitable pace. • AA Staff to ensure correct footwear is worn and laces properly tied. • AA Staff to point out and 'danger areas' and how to pass them.

<p>Weaseling</p> <p>Specific dangers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falling from height. • Guest becoming physically stuck (trapped body part / clothing / equipment). • Loose rock (falling). • Injuries caused by jewelry or watches becoming stuck. 	<p>Med</p>	<p>All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA Staff member leading activity to be minimum SPA qualified and have completed site specific in house training. • Guests briefed in advance as to suitable clothing and footwear for climbing. • Guests to be provided and fitted with PPE (helmet). • AA Staff to check PPE and monitor its correct use throughout the session (especially after breaks / removal of clothing / toilet stops). • Safe area to be established where PPE may be removed if necessary. • Boulder problems / caves and squeezes to be checked in advance for loose rock. Loose rock to be removed if possible before climbs / caves are used. If loose rock is removed a thorough check of surrounding area to be undertaken before using again. • PPE to be inspected thoroughly by designated person weekly during the season as well as at the start of each session by AA Staff. • AA Staff and guests to remove rings before starting. If this is not possible then rings to be taped over. Guests also asked to remove watches and dangly earrings. • AA Staff to demonstrate effective spotting techniques, and how guests can help each other to overcome problems. • Minimum of 2 spotters per climber with AA Staff also spotting when required. • Guests given strict guidelines as to what is / is not allowed (boundaries, which problems to use, what to do when reaching the top and descent routes). • AA Staff to clearly identify hazards (rocks on ground, tree routes, etc).
<p>General Public</p> <p>Specific Dangers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical / Verbal Abuse. • Abduction 	<p>Low</p>	<p>Guests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA Staff to be aware of other people using the area and to provide a visible presence. • AA Staff to carry out regular head counts throughout the day. • Guests told to stay with a minimum of 1 other person at all times. • AA Staff to attempt to de-escalate any potentially confrontational situation if safe to do so. • Lead instructor to be willing to finish activity early and remove all guests if any serious problems do arise.