

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ARE YOUR ACTIVITIES AND CENTRES ACCREDITED?

All our activities operate to the highest safety standards.

We conform to all National Governing Body (NGB) guidelines where applicable. Where there is no appropriate NGB guidance, approval is sought from highly qualified external consultants.

We are also licensed with Adventurous Activities Licensing Authority (AALA).

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## WHAT IS AN AALA LICENCE?

The Adventurous Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) is a government agency that is part of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). They are the 'lead authority' in health and safety matters relating to outdoor activity centres.

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## IS YOUR CENTRE INSPECTED AND APPROVED BY ANY INDEPENDENT BODIES?

Our risk assessments, operating procedures etc. in respect of our facilities, food safety and all other general safety issues are regularly checked by Bromsgrove Environmental Health department.

We are proud that there are no outstanding issues, and that they are satisfied with our overall operating procedures.

## HAVE YOU GOT RISK ASSESSMENTS AND CAN WE HAVE A COPY?

All Blackwell Adventure activities and facilities are risk assessed in accordance with HSE guidelines. As the nature of these risk assessments are very technical we do not make them available for general inspection.

There is a growing view within the outdoor industry that it is unfair to expect a non-qualified person to make an informed judgement about an area of which they have little technical knowledge. Therefore, we believe it is sufficient for us to confirm that we have the necessary risk assessments in place and these have been independently verified. However, if a specific request is made we will supply the necessary documentation.

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## DO YOU HAVE INSURANCE?

Blackwell Adventure has liability insurance with Norwich Union.

This insurance cover is sufficient to meet the potential liability resulting from activities involving young people.

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## DO YOU HAVE A CHILD PROTECTION POLICY (CPP)?

Blackwell Adventure has a comprehensive CPP in place, which reflects current good practice.

All paid staff and volunteers working at the Centre are subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check.

Additionally, Blackwell Adventure staff are trained in appropriate behaviour when working with young people.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## DO BLACKWELL ADVENTURE STAFF LIVE ON-SITE?

We have a minimum of two staff members living on site. During the summer months, this figure dramatically increases.

A Duty Manager is available outside of normal office hours and can be contacted at any time using the emergency phone number.

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## HOW MUCH SUPERVISION DO WE HAVE TO PROVIDE?

As group leader / responsible adult, we expect you to have overall supervision of your young people at all times.

During activities a responsible adult should assist with general supervision, while Blackwell Adventure staff will take responsibility for all technical and safety aspects.

Our normal ratio is 1 instructor to 12 participants, where possible, it is requested that a responsible adult will accompany each group of 12.

During non-activity time it is the sole responsibility of the group leader / responsible adult to ensure supervision of their group.

## ARE THERE ANY ACTIVITIES WE CAN RUN OURSELVES?

Blackwell Adventure has a number of non-instructor led activities available for hire i.e. grass sleds and indoor sports. You will however, be required to sign for the responsibility of the activity, participants and the equipment.

In addition, we also have available a selection of resources suitable for evening entertainments / activities.

Please ask for more details.

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## WHAT SAFETY EQUIPMENT OR CLOTHING WILL BE SUPPLIED?

Blackwell Adventure will provide all technical safety equipment for activities.

All key centre staff have access to first aid kits and carry 2-way radios in case of emergencies.

You will need to ensure that your group have suitable personal clothing for the prevailing conditions and also for the activities detailed on your programme.

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BLACKWELL ADVENTURE

