



## Staff and Scout Network activity rules

This guidance is based on POR Rule 9.8 for adult groups undertaking activities within Scouting. If there are any conflicts between this guidance and POR then Rule 9.8 takes precedence.

In summary, members of The Scout Association over the age of 18 participating in activities where no under-18s are present need not follow all of the rules that cover participation in activities by young people.

For our expedition to Kandersteg, groups of staff and/or Network members over the age of 18 must follow the guidelines below which include appropriate controls to ensure your safety and wellbeing, as well as complying with POR Rule 9.8.

### General requirements

You **must** advise our K2025 Helpdesk whenever you leave the Scout Centre (KISC) and leave details of who is going where, and when you expect to be back. This applies even if you are, for example, strolling into the village.

If you are going above the valley floor *in the Kandersteg valley* then you **must** also complete a KISC route card form and leave copies with both the Helpdesk and KISC reception before you leave the site. This applies, for example, if you are going up in the Oeschinensee or Sunnbüel cable-cars, or walking up the road into the Gasterntal valley towards Selden.

### Tourist activities

If you are participating in an activity which normal tourists to Switzerland take part in, other than hill-walking, there are no specific rules that need to be followed other than the signing-out requirements described above.

These tourist activities include, for example:

- visiting Bern or Interlaken to go sightseeing
- taking a boat cruise from Spiez or Thun on Thunersee
- travelling on cable-cars and mountain railways in the Kander valley or the Jungfrau region to viewpoints and restaurants at high altitudes
- swimming at the Kandersteg swimming pool
- taking part in rafting, paragliding or high rope activities organised by KISC recommended and approved partners
- walking up the Gasterntal valley road and footpaths as far as Selden
- walking along the Kander riverbank footpath from KISC to Kandersteg village
- walking from the Oeschinensee cable-car to the Oeschinensee restaurants

However, you must take the normal precautions that a prudent tourist would. These include wearing suitable clothing for the likely weather and temperatures and taking a mobile phone, a water bottle (if you are walking any distance) and your passport.

### **Hill walking**

If you are going to use a footpath (Wanderweg) other than those described above – i.e. in the Gasterntal valley, along the Kander river and at Oeschinensee - then you must:

- walk in a group of between 4 and 8 adults
- agree which of you is the “Leader-in-charge” who will be responsible for the group and make any emergency decisions
- wear robust walking shoes/boots and take warm clothes and a suitable waterproof jacket
- have a small First Aid kit, map and compass in the group
- undertake an informal Risk Assessment together, including discussing any particularly exposed or steep parts of the walk and identifying escape routes to a point of help

### **Other activities**

Hiking on mountain paths (Bergwegs) and any other self-led land, water or air activities must comply with all of the activity rules in Section 9 of POR. These include the necessary permits for Adventurous Activities (Rule 9.7).

Please first discuss any planned activities of this type with Geoff Vanderplank or Phil Power.

### **Prohibited activities**

In accordance with rule 9.1.1.2 of POR the following activities are not allowed even for all-adult groups:

- towing of inflatables behind powered watercraft, such as banana boating
- bungee jumping
- hitch hiking
- knife throwing
- archery tag and other combat style archery activities
- trotti biking (*which is common in Switzerland*)

Participating in any of these activities is likely to invalidate your travel insurance.