

# Ice Climbing



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**0845 300 1818**

## Introduction

This factsheet looks to give the facts a person would need to know to run Ice Climbing for a group of young people. It should be read in conjunction with the factsheet FS120084 Scout Led Activities Index, and Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scout Association.

## What is Ice Climbing?

Ice Climbing generally refers to the climbing of ice formations such as icefalls and frozen waterfalls, although there are now also artificial ice climbing walls available. Climbing is normally done through the use of ice axes and crampons.

## What is an Ice Climbing Permit?

The adventurous activity permit scheme is designed to ensure that only people with the relevant skills and experience lead adventurous activities for the young people. Therefore all activities classed as adventurous can only be lead by someone holding the appropriate permit.

An Ice Climbing Permit is required for all Ice Climbing activities.

## Types of Permits

The only permit to lead Ice Climbing is an Ice Climbing Group Climbing permit. Each permit can be restricted (such as through specific locations etc) to end up with an individual permit to the level of the competence and requirements of any person. As well as a permit to lead, it is possible to gain a permit to supervise Ice Climbing.

In addition to a leading permit, it is possible to gain a personal competence permit for Ice Climbing, known as an Ice Climbing Rope Leader.

## Permit Limitations

If you have a permit to lead Ice Climbing you can lead one rope system at a time. Details of group sizes for Climbing can be found in POR.

An Ice Climbing Rope Leader permit allows you to climb with others holding an Ice Climbing Rope Leader permit, without the need for someone with a leading permit to be present. It does not allow you to climb with non-permit holders.

## Definition of Supervision

If you hold a permit to supervise Ice Climbing then you can supervise up to three rope systems at a time. You should remain in a position to be able to effectively supervise and assist all rope systems. The permit holder remains responsible for all groups at all times.

## Designations

When supervising more than one rope system the holder of an Ice Climbing supervisor permit needs to designate a rope leader for each group. This rope leader can then act as the belayer. This designation lasts only for the current activity while the permit holder is supervising.

People designated as rope leaders should hold the skills, including being able to competently belay, and be responsible enough to lead the rope system that has been set up. There is no problem with making young people rope leaders if they are up to the role, and it can be used as a useful development tool.

## Useful Links

[FS120084](#) Scout Led Activities Index  
(References relevant Rules and guidance)

[FS120086](#) Commercially Led Activities Index

[FS120100](#) Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme