

Personal Activity Permits - Questions and Answers



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1. What are personal activity permits?

Personal activity permits are a new type of permit that recognises a young person's ability to safely take part in an adventurous activity without the need for supervision from others. They have already existed (with various titles) in climbing and snowsports.

2. How are they different to leadership or supervisory permits?

A leadership or supervisory permit allows you to lead an activity for other people. A personal permit only allows you to carry out the activity for yourself, not to lead anyone else. So you can only take part in the activity with someone else with a personal activity permit.

3. Are there new permit cards for this?

Yes. The updated cards have tick boxes for 'personal', 'leadership' and 'supervisory' to easily show what type of permit it is for.

4. Does this work in the same way as nights away passports?

No. A nights away passport is given by a nights away permit holder to a young person for a single event. A personal activity permit can only be granted by a Commissioner on the recommendation of an Assessor (the same way as leadership and supervisory permits), and lasts for up to a maximum of 5 years.

5. Is there a minimum age?

There is no minimum age to gain a permit (as there isn't for leadership and supervisory permits).

It is based on the technical skills and personal suitability of the individual.

6. Is there a maximum age?

Personal permits have no use once someone is 18 as they then come under the rules of adult groups in adventurous activities.

7. How does it affect Assessors?

Assessors will assess candidates in the same way that they would for leadership and supervisory permits. There are specific assessment checklists for them to use for personal permits.

8. How does it affect Commissioners?

The Commissioner's role is the same as when granting leadership or supervisory permits, with the exception that applicants don't need checking for child protection (training, personal enquiry checks etc).

9. Why aren't all adventurous activities included?

Some activities (eg white water rafting, dragon boating) require someone to be in charge of the craft and others on board. This naturally goes against the idea of a personal activity permit holder only being responsible for themselves, not for others, so it is not possible to get a personal permit for these activities.

10. Is first aid required?

The first aid requirement is the same as for all adventurous activities. So there is no requirement for the permit holder to hold a first aid qualification, but there does need to be first aid

available to the appropriate level whenever the activity takes place.

themselves to lead adventurous activities for their young people.

11. What activities does this cover?

The activities covered by the adventurous activity permit scheme remain the same. There is no need to get a personal activity permit for activities that you wouldn't have needed a permit holder for before (eg class C waters, terrain 0, archery etc).

12. What funding is available?

Funding is available for those being assessed for personal activity permits in the same way that it is for leadership and supervisory permits.

13. What does a personal activity permit allow you to do?

A personal activity permit allows you to take part in that activity with others holding a personal activity permit.

14. What doesn't a personal activity permit allow you to do?

A personal activity permit doesn't allow you to lead an activity for others or take part in an activity with others who don't hold a personal activity permit.

15. Is there funding available to support gaining personal permits?

Yes. Funding is available in the same way as for leadership and supervisory permits. You can find full details on ScoutBase UK at www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/activities/assessment/funding.htm.

16. Can personal permit holders take part in activities with over 18s who are following the rules for adult groups in adventurous activities?

As long as the over 18s are there as their peer group and not in any leadership capacity then yes. So an Explorer Scout could take part with Network members, but if any of those Network members were an Explorer Leader they couldn't. This is to ensure leaders don't try and use personal permits as a way of not needing to get a permit