



**Boundless
Outdoors**

**Safety & Regulations
Statement**



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Boundless Outdoors is one of the largest residential outdoor activity providers in the West Midlands. Leaders and parents can be confident of our commitment to ensuring high standards in terms of quality control for all matters pertaining to educational and activity content, professional staffing and matters of safety.

The staff at Boundless Outdoors pride themselves in meeting the needs of their students. Activity programmes are carefully designed, taking into consideration the initial booking requests and the nature of the group.

Our staff hold a variety of nationally recognised qualifications for the activities we deliver and undergo rigorous vetting, continual professional development and training so that we stay at the forefront of best practice in the outdoor education sector.

It is the benefits to people of engaging in outdoor learning that remain at the heart of our risk management process. Where there are risks identified these are managed effectively but it is often the case with some adventure activities that a degree of risk remains for the activities and the intended outcomes to have value, worth and meaning.

The Centre is rigorously monitored through the systems of continual staff development and training. All staff are First Aid qualified and undergo Enhanced DBS checks. Activity leaders will either hold nationally recognised instructional certificates or, for activities which do not have National Governing Bodies, will have undertaken formal in-house training and approval to run those activities.

Awards

Boundless Outdoors not only holds the statutory Adventure Activities Licensing Authority from the HSE but part takes in other industry leading quality badges.

These include;

LOTC Learning outside the classroom

Association of Heads Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC) Gold Standard

Adventurous Activities Industry Advisors Committee (AAIAC) Adventuremark

These awards not only exam the safety of our centre but the quality of our provision and activities.

The Adventure Activities Licensing Authority's (AALA)

The Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) came into existence in April 1996. The Health and Safety Executive is currently designated as the AALA. Adventure activities licensing ensures that activity providers follow good safety management practices.

These should allow young people to experience exciting and stimulating activities outdoors without being exposed to avoidable risks of death or disabling injury.

Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge

The LOtC quality badge is a nationally recognised accreditation that shows that a provider has met or exceeds stringent safety and quality standards and is endorsed by the Outdoor Education Advisory Panel and School Travel Forum. This means that you do not need to check our risk assessments or operating procedures as a matter of course, and you can be confident that we meet the highest standards. The Department for Education endorses the LOtC, whose Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge is only awarded to organisations that meet nationally recognised standards.

AHOEC Gold Standard & Adventure Mark

The Gold standard is only available to outdoor providers who are committed to, and have a proven record of, outstanding high quality delivery of outdoor education.

Only providers who already hold both the LOtC quality badge and Adventure Mark are eligible for consideration for inspection and have to prove that they meet quality criteria in the following areas:

- Customer care
- Safety management, policies, organisation and planning
- Facilities and resources
- Environmental sustainability
- Quality assurance, measuring and reviewing performance

Insurance

Boundless Outdoors holds appropriate public liability, professional indemnity, vehicle and property cover for the products we offer.

The Centre is covered through Activities Insurance Mutual.

Equipment

At our centres we use the latest personal protective equipment, activity equipment, and other equipment, all of which undergoes a stringent inspection, management and replacement process so that anything that our customers and staff rely on to stay safe is always at its best and there if needed.

Risk Management

Leaders and parents should understand that safety is not just about staff qualifications or experience, careful selection of teaching venues and equipment appropriate to the group's needs are an essential component. Full risk assessments have been undertaken and risk management procedures implemented for all the activities.

We don't publish our risk assessments or operating procedures for a number of reasons, namely to help protect our clients from legal repercussions if an incident were to occur the risk assessment contains technical terms and acronyms which are specific to outdoor education and may not be fully understandable to all, as well as to help reduce the need for excess paperwork for our clients and ourselves.

Boundless Outdoors is a LOtC Quality Badge and AALA badge holder. There is normally no need to seek further assurances about the safety of provision.

Visiting leaders will however need to undertake risk assessments for their travel to the Centre and for any activities not led by Centre staff and students free time.

If you or your organisation require further information on safety procedures, risk assessments, or any other aspect of the Centre operating procedures, this should be discussed prior to your arrival. It may be necessary to make an administrative charge if copies of documents or lengthy discussions are required.



Nicholas Hands
CEO Boundless Outdoors