



Challenge 26

Safe Camping Guide

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Version	Date	Description of Changes
1.0	07/06/26	Published
1.1	10/06/26	Updated wording in Section 5 Infectious Disease and Section 6 and Checklist to reflect Carbon Monoxide Safety Alert Guidance.



The Challenge Team have produced a Safe Camping Guide that we ask all Volunteers to observe and share with their Districts, Network, Units, Groups and Sections to help keep Challenge 26 safe for everyone. This is to be read along with all Challenge Camp Policies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Challenge26@cycscouts.org.uk.

1. Safe Camping

As with any camp, it is important that it is set up, run and taken down in a safe way. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask either before the camp or during and challenge anything that concerns you.

The Challenge team risk assess the general event and the activities that we provide. However, it is your responsibility to produce risk assessments for your camp setting, leaders and young people. Review and update these as needed, especially when you have set up your camp. You should consider and risk assess what is safe for each of your young people, which will inform how they take part in the event. This is particularly relevant for young people under your care with allergies, medical conditions, care or support plans and Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans.

You should also remember that there may not be access to online records so you should keep a paper copy of medical records and emergency contact InTouch information. Emergency contact details provided by parents, along with health information and dietary requirements can be downloaded from the Challenge bookings portal, and you are responsible for storing these securely.

Please share the Safe Scouting cards including the Yellow and Purple cards with all adults attending the event and the Orange Card with Young Leaders. This is especially important for newer adults to Scouting and parent helpers. Please explain to them, before the event, our rules and expectations for privacy and not being one-to-one with young people.

We recommend that you brush up on the guidance on the Scout website:

[Scouts: Safe Camping](#)

[Scouts: Safeguarding at large scale UK based Scout events](#)

[Scouts: Guidance for Younger Children and Toileting](#)

2. Camping Space

The space you will be allocated is based on the number of people camping in your Group or Unit. Space allocations are similar to that of previous Challenge camps and will consist of a sufficient area for sleeping (and catering, where Groups are catering for themselves) tents.

Top Tips:

- Do not bring enormous tents or marquees, make the size match the number of people camping in your group
- Use your tents wisely, maximise the number of people per tent and use porches for storage to allow more people to fit in inner bedrooms of tents

Your Layout:

Each District, Network, Unit and Group must ensure that there is a clear, accessible route to the main paths. This should not be blocked by guy lines or equipment.

Cooking Areas must be separated from young people, e.g. by placing a serving table in front.

Cooking Tents must be at least 6 metres away from any sleeping tents to prevent fire spreading.

3. Fencing and Gateways

The Challenge team will mark out camping areas for each District. It is the responsibility of each District Camp Lead to further split this down into allocations for each Group/Unit. District Camp Leads may choose to mark these areas in different ways. We encourage you to fence off your Group/Unit area with bunting or such like, not only does it look nice, but it will also deter others from walking through your camp area.

4. Respect your Neighbour

Remember that this is a big event! You will have camping neighbours from other Groups and other Districts. Please show others the same consideration and respect as you would wish to receive at all times. If you see someone is struggling, reach out a helping hand.

Top Tips

- Keep noise levels down, especially at night. Camp Quiet is between 11pm and 7am.
- Be aware and respectful of any cultural or behavioural differences of your neighbours
- Make new friends and support each other
- Remember **all** the Event Team are volunteers, just like you

5. Health and Hygiene

Hygiene is particularly important on large camps to prevent the spread of disease.

Hand Washing is Important

- Encourage hand washing after using the toilets
- Wash hands before and after preparing, handling and eating food

Hand washing and Teeth Brushing facilities

Ensure you provide basic hand-washing facilities on your site; this could be as simple as a bowl of warm soapy water.

Please do not brush teeth at the water taps, we suggest that everyone brushes their teeth in their camping area using a mug of water instead.

Wastewater

Wastewater should be run through wet pits, which have straw and sieves to catch any debris.

Please do not dispose of any water in hedges and do not dig into the ground.

Toilets

Please try to keep toilets clean so other on the site can use them. Toilets will be restocked with toilet paper throughout the weekend, and Districts will be allocated toilets to clean. These toilets are not only for use by this District and can be used by anyone on site.

There will also be accessible toilets on site, please try to keep these available for those that need them most, but also remember that reason someone may need to use accessible toilets may not always be visible, so be respectful.

Infectious Disease

It is important to take preventative measures to reduce the impacts of infectious disease. Infectious disease covers a range of illnesses which are generally easily spread. They can be spread via person-to-person contact, contact surfaces, and within food and water. It is important that anyone suffering from illness seeks medical attention immediately.

The Safety Team and Medical Team will be able to support and provide guidance and investigate to prevent spread of the illness.

Most infectious diseases have a range of symptoms which vary between types of Infection and anyone suspected of carrying one should be sent home as on your own camps. General symptoms could include a variety of the following: Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach cramps, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, a high temperature (fever) of 38C+, chills, or muscle pain. If in doubt, contact the medical team. To prevent the spread of infection it is important that everyone adopts good handwashing practice and personal hygiene.

6. Cooking on Gas

You should not store excess gas on your site, with a maximum of 100kg per plot. Pierceable canisters are not allowed. Scout Guidelines for use of gas, and POR, must be followed, including risk assessing your use of gas and storage.

Any gas appliance onsite being connected to gas bottles must be designed for use with, or converted for use with, gas cylinders. All equipment needs to be in good working order with no visible damage. Hoses must be kept as short as possible but be long enough for the gas cylinders to be positioned outside the tent and therefore accessible for the valves to be shut off in an emergency. Connection must be by using a jubilee type clip, not crimp clip. Gas hoses must be inspected before coming to camp, confirmed as 'fit for purpose' and is recommended to have been renewed within three years. If a fault does occur or damage is noticed, then the equipment must not be used. During the event, checks may be carried out to ensure gas safety. You will also need a sufficient fire blanket and fire extinguisher; these must not have exceeded the expiry date.

When using tents for cooking they need to be of an adequate size for moving around in and have available exits for emergencies and should be fire retardant where possible. Tents used for cooking need to have sufficient ventilation to prevent carbon monoxide building up.

Carbon Monoxide

Following the guidance published in June 2026 reinforcing Carbon Monoxide (CO) Safety in Scouts we encourage that you have suitable CO detection arrangements in place for your camp settings. This could include a BS EN 50291-2 Carbon Monoxide detector in your cooking area. Trustee Boards have until 30th September 2026 to review their position in relation to the items on the checklist. If in doubt, please refer to the 'Safety Alert and Learning Notice'

[Scouts: Using Gas Safely](#)

[Scouts: Carbon Monoxide](#)

[Scouts: Safety Alert and Learning Notice 01/26](#)

7. Food Safety

This is an important area when camping. It can be more difficult to ensure food safety when camping due to difficulties at keeping food cold, effectively cleaning surfaces and storing the food. The guidance below is set out to ensure good practices and safe food storage and preparation.

There is more information available online:

[Scouts: Guidance for Food Safety](#)

[Scouts: Allergy Management](#)

[Gov.UK: Food Safety and Hygiene](#)

Food Storage

Ambient goods: These should be stored off the floor, preferably in sealed boxes to prevent insects coming into contact with them. Keep in mind that during hot weather food will deteriorate more quickly i.e. bread can go mouldy and fruit can spoil more quickly.

Chilled and frozen goods: These foods need to be stored at their respective temperatures.

Chilled, at least below 8°C, and recommended below 5°C. Frozen food should never thaw above 8°C and should be used within 24hrs of fully defrosting.

[Gov.UK: Chilling Food Correctly](#)

[Gov.UK: How to chill, freeze and defrost food safely](#)

Cooking Food

When cooking meats, ensure they are fully cooked. If using a probe thermometer, the food should have a core temperature of 75°C or above. You should not retain cooked foods for use the next day as this cannot generally be achieved safely in a camping situation.

Cleaning and Hygiene

Cleaning is an important factor in ensuring food safety. Prior to preparing food all equipment and surfaces need to be effectively cleaned and disinfected.

The use of a surface sanitiser is recommended to remove bacteria. After preparing raw meats, the equipment and area need to be thoroughly cleaned with hot soapy water and then disinfected.

Clean cloths and tea towels need to be available throughout the camp duration.

When preparing, cooking and eating food, hand hygiene and personal hygiene is paramount. You need to ensure that there is clean hot water available with hand soap and drying facilities. Hands should be cleaned before cooking, after handling raw meat and in between tasks.

No one currently or recently suffering from diarrhoea or vomiting should prepare or handle food. Those recently suffering symptoms must wait at least 48hrs after their symptoms have stopped before they start food preparation again.

Allergies should be considered and allergens controlled:

[Scouts: Allergy management](#)

Event Activities involving food

The event has activities involving food. Allergens in food activities will be displayed at each activity. It is the responsibility of the leader in charge of your Group/Unit at Challenge to complete risk assessments for individuals with dietary requirements or allergies to determine, for example, whether they can manage their allergy independently to go around the site unaccompanied.

8. Fire Safety

Fire safety is very important when camping in large numbers. Should a fire occur on a camping site the risk of it spreading quickly through tents is a major concern. You need to ensure you take the simple steps below to prevent fire outbreak and that you know what to do if a fire does occur.

Fire Rules

1. No open fires, charcoal BBQs, wood fired pizza ovens, pierceable gas cartridge cookers and lights or liquid fuel appliances are permitted.
2. Groups must have at least one fire blanket and a suitable extinguisher in the cooking area.
3. There are to be no naked flames in sleeping tents.
4. Cooking appliances must be positioned away from wall and roof surfaces.
5. Full and empty LPG cylinders must be kept outside in a ventilated area and must be changed over in open air.
6. No candles onsite.
7. Smoking and vaping are only allowed in designated areas.
8. No naked flames near gas bottles or pipework.
9. On smelling gas, immediately turn off all appliances, extinguish naked flames and raise the alarm.

Please make sure you familiarise yourself with fire points and evacuation procedures.

Batteries

Please make sure that you take home any batteries, especially lithium batteries, and dispose of them safely at home. Do not dispose of these in camp bins or skips as these are a fire risk.

9. First Aid and Welfare

First Aid

As with any camp, Group leaders are responsible for their first aid; and should bring a fully stocked first aid kit. We will also have ScoutMed, a dedicated team of First Aiders that include Medical Professionals with a tent in the camping area and on the activity field. The guidance for the use of the onsite first aiders are:

- If a group has the equipment needed to deal with a minor injury, they should deal with it on the spot, but ScoutMed will never turn anyone away.
- If a casualty can travel, they should go to the First Aid tent to avoid calling First Aiders to the scene.

Welfare

Our Welfare team will provide a Listening Ear facility for welfare support across the event, you can find the team at the Listening Ear point on the activity field and patrolling the site in blue high-visibility vests. The Listening Ear can help answer any questions, guide people to where they need to go or provide support to anyone in distress. There will also be a safe space on the activity field to support attendees that need to regulate or need a place away from the hustle and bustle of the other activities. A reflection room is available in the camping area that can be used for mindfulness or prayer.

Calling an Ambulance

If you believe an ambulance is required, please allow the ScoutMed team to call for it where possible. ScoutMed carry much of the equipment found in an ambulance and can fast track an ambulance or stop an ambulance from arriving if it hasn't been dispatched.

However, do not let this stop you from calling an ambulance yourself if you are aware of a life-threatening injury. Please inform the Event Team and ScoutMed so that we can ensure the ambulance is met on entry to the Park and escorted to the correct location.

10. Generators

Generators must be diesel fuelled to reduce the risk of fire and grounded. All generators must be turned off by 11pm to allow the campsite to be quiet for sleep, you must not turn generators on before 7am. If they are not turned off, they will be turned off by the event team. If you have a need for power during the night, it is your responsibility to provide a battery powered alternative. Fridges and freezers will maintain sufficient temperature when kept closed to allow them to be safely turned off overnight.

If you have any medications that require strict temperature control, please contact your District Camp Lead.

11. Weather

All weather hazards are risk assessed as part of the event risk assessments and planned cautionary measures are put in place based on forecasts prior to the event. Weather forecasts will be monitored by the event team in the lead up to and during the event. All activities will be monitored while they are running so they remain safe.

Hot Weather and Sun Exposure

Marquees will be available for shelter on the activity field and water will be piped to drinks stations for anyone to use. Please take care as the ground temperature increases, particularly for younger sections. Remember to bring suncream, hats and water bottles and remind your young people to do the same.

Cold & Wet Weather

Marquees will be available for shelter on the activity field. Please encourage young people to bring warm clothes and coats, even if we are expecting hot weather, just in case.

Strong Wind

The large marquees provided by the event team are securely fastened to the ground and designed to cope with high winds. Wind speed will be measured on site by the event team. Please check during the event that all tents are securely fastened to the ground.

Lightning

All large marquees on site will be used as shelter; please keep a 3-metre boundary around all metal poles - tables can be used as a barrier to stop people from going near these poles. All generators should be switched off. Please remain under shelter until the event team say that it is safe to exit.

12. Policies

All Event Policies must be followed and can be found here:

<https://challengecamp.org.uk/leader-information/>

Remember that everyone on site is a volunteer.

Camp Kitchen Health and Safety Checklist

Group/District Name:

Inspected by:

	Yes	No	Actions / Comments
Does the kitchen and catering area look clean?			
Is all chilled / frozen food stored properly?			
Is all food off the ground or in containers?			
Is there a suitable area for food preparation?			
Have suitable handwashing facilities been provided?			
Are cleaning products stored securely and away from food?			
Is there adequate gas or power to cook with?			
Are cookers in usable condition and in a ventilated area?			
Is gas tubing in date and good condition?			
Is gas stored outside cooking tent?			
Is there a 6m fire gap from cooking tent to sleeping areas?			
Are suitable fire extinguishers available, serviced and in date?			
Is a fire blanket in a suitable area?			
Is the fire procedure known?			
Are there obvious trip hazards?			
Are tents pitched safely with no guy lines in main paths?			
Are tooth brushing facilities provided?			
Considered suitable Carbon Monoxide safety measures?			