

Supporting Additional Needs - A Group Leaders Guide

Inclusion of all is central to the ethos of The Beaudesert Trust and Beaudesert Outdoor Activity Centre. We endeavour to achieve this where possible with strong communication with you as a customer.

To start this process we recommend that every group leader organises a site visit prior to your booking, to look around and discuss the individual needs of the group members.

We request that you as a group leader provide us with information on individual needs as soon as possible after the booking is made, but at least two weeks before you arrive.

There are some practical limits to what we can provide for in a typical activity centre and group environment. These are often defined by the accommodation, activities and the terrain.

If someone requires additional support we will expect them to bring appropriate carers and specialist equipment like hoists and specialist porta-loos etc. We have an 'Access Statement' which may assist group leaders in their decision-making process in regards to toilets and accommodation.

Behavioural difficulties

Our instructors work to create a positive interaction between all group members during activity sessions. We recognise that you will have experience and an ongoing relationship with your young people to manage more challenging behaviours. We do reserve the right to exclude anyone whose behaviour is unacceptable.

Dietary requirements

Where catering has been booked, we ensure that we provide meals for a wide variety of dietary requirements. You will be sent a form before the booking commences which outlines the meals and requests details of dietary requirements. Please return this form at least two weeks before the booking commences. We may contact you to clarify information that is provided on the form.

Religious & Cultural requirements

We recognise a participant's need to opt out of our activities on religious grounds. Choosing to opt out may mean that the participant will have to occupy themselves for an activity session under group leader supervision or temporarily join another group for an alternative activity.

Beaudesert uses helmets on many activities to protect participants from minor bumps. The decision to allow a participant to change from our standard procedures and to not wear a helmet must be discussed and approved by a senior member of the Beaudesert activities team prior to arrival. If approved, the individual and the group leader should be made aware of the change in the level of risk and the new control measures.

Due to the level of risk and/or the law, helmets are sometimes mandatory and the individual must choose to either wear the helmet provided, or not participate in the activity.

If a guest requires a private space in which to remove an article of clothing in order to put a helmet on, we will provide this space, along with appropriate fitting instructions. Fitting will be checked carefully and sensitively by the instructor once on the head and before participation in the activity.

Requests for individuals to wear their own helmet must be approved in advance by a senior member of the Beaudesert activities team.

Supporting Participation in Activity Sessions

We want young people to participate in our activities regardless of perceived limitations. We have a 'can do' approach to participation and can adapt many of our sessions but there are some practical limits to this. We ask that you provide written details of any additional needs at least two weeks in advance of the booking to give us sufficient time to make amendments and support staff in activity delivery. We may not be able to provide suitable support or adaptation if less than two-weeks notice is provided.

Choosing Appropriate Activities

We have found it useful to consider the physical requirements of the activity and believe that you should also be aware of these additional elements when choosing activities:

- Terrain
- The time it takes to return to toilets and changing facilities
- The weather

When choosing activity sessions please consider the above physical and environmental factors, as well as the emotional well-being of the young person.