



Abseiling and Climbing Activity Plan

(Statham's Quarry Gooseberry Hill)





Abseiling and Climbing

Welcome to Scouts WA Abseiling and Climbing!

The two primary sites used by Scouts WA in the Perth metropolitan area come under the management of the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions; they require abseiling and climbing to be conducted by qualified Activity Guides who hold a NOLRS registration.

Scouts WA also require abseiling and climbing to be conducted by qualified Activity Guides who have been appointed by the Branch Commissioner for Adventurous Activities.

For more information on becoming a qualified Abseil or Climbing Activity Guide, please email the Branch Commissioner Adventurous Activities or the Branch Leader Vertical bl.vertical@scoutswa.com.au

Leaders should read this **Activity Plan** and pass on any important information before attending the scout activity day. This plan will help you be better prepared and get more out of the day, by advising you what to expect, details about the site, safety considerations, and what to bring.

The primary aims of the Abseiling and Climbing Team, (Activity Team) are to maximise the experience and safety for your group. We facilitate the day giving consideration to the experience of the participants, and industry abseiling and climbing standards.

The Activity Team and quarries can accommodate up to:

- 30 Scouts
- 6 Leaders/Adult Supporters

It is important that you notify the Activity Team before the activity and again on the day if you have participants with:

- Back or Spinal Injuries
- Heart Condition or High Blood Pressure
- Epilepsy
 - Any other medical conditions that might be aggravated by the activity

Statham's Quarry

Statham's Quarry (also called Darling Range Quarry) named after Thomas Statham is considered to contain one of the most extensive dolerite dykes on the Darling Scarp. The Quarry contains cliffs up to 30 metres high, formed by cutting into the steep face of the Darling Scarp.

The rock crushing plant provided the material for many of Perth's early 1900s footpaths and even the City Beach groyne. The quarry's fate was closely linked with the nearby Zig Zag drive, formerly a railway pass for the Upper Darling Range railway.

Statham's Quarry was shut down in 1957 after a bushfire rendered it inoperable.
Source: [various websites]

The cliffs at Statham's Quarry offer climbing and abseiling opportunities for licensed groups guided by qualified instructors and for experienced, skilled and properly equipped independent climbing and abseiling enthusiasts. Source: onsite sign.



Statham's quarry is a manmade environment offering 4 x Natural abseiling faces:

- Introductory Height 27 metres
- Main Face Height 29 metres
- Overhang 1 Height 21 metres
- Overhang 2 Height 24 metres

Statham's Quarry is maintained by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions.

Statham's Quarry

Address: Ridge Hill Road, Gooseberry Hill

If you are travelling up Ridge Hill Road (from Kalamunda/Midland Road), the entrance to Statham's Quarry is approximately 700 metres on the right hand side, from where the Zig Zag scenic drive joins to Ridge Hill Road.

If you are travelling up Ridge Hill Road from (from Helena Valley Road), the entrance to Statham's Quarry is approximately 900 metres on the left hand side from round-about (Helena Valley Road / Ridge Hill Road).

There is a white steel gate which is the entrance to the track to the Quarry (and small sign post on the opposite side of the road).

Vehicles: Please beware, small 2WD vehicles (or vehicles with low clearance) may find it challenging to drive on the track to the quarry



Activity Team

- Safety is the responsibility of everyone on site.
- The Activity Team has the overriding authority on site, and your group agrees to respect and follow the directions of the Activity Team members.
- The Activity Team has the authority to prevent anyone from participating where they believe the person would place themselves or others at risk.
- The Activity Team Leader has the authority to remove any person from the site.
- In the event that any of our Activity Team become concerned about safety, the Activity Team Leader has the authority to close the pitch or site until such time as the safety concern is resolved.

Activity Restrictions

- Abseiling and climbing are restricted to :
 - Youth members
 - Members of the Scouts WA (Leaders, Registered Adult Supporters, etc.)
 - Participant being able to fit correctly into the harness and helmet

Before encouraging young youth members, give consideration whether the youth member is ready to take on the challenge of abseiling or climbing. We sometimes find 11 year old scouts are not quite ready to take on such a big challenge, but by the time they reach 13 they are ready.

We are not saying that a particular aged Scout cannot abseil or climb. What we are saying is allow your Scouts to make an informed decision, and be understanding if the Scout feels that they are not quite ready to take on abseiling or climbing challenges.

If the Scout is your child, take off your parent hat and put on your Scout Leader hat when making such decisions, and if necessary consult with your fellow Scout Leaders.

Arrival

- Your Group is required to arrive by 8:30am in time for the Mandatory Safety Briefing. We recommend that you arrive at 8:15am at the Quarry. Please come through the gate and close it behind you.
- The Quarry Gate is generally locked and only opened to allow entry. It is a requirement of the land management authority that the Gate remains locked.
- On arrival of your group, please keep your group together, and do not permit anyone to climb over the rocks or wander around the base of the cliffs, or at the top of the cliffs.

Please remember the site is a dangerous location, falling rocks (regardless of their size) can cause serious injury or death.

Bush Fire

- The area in which the quarry is located is susceptible to bushfire during November to April each year.
- Where the Fire Danger Rating for the area is 'Very High', your group needs to ensure that you have sufficient vehicles onsite in the unlikely event that evacuation of all Participants is required as part of the Activity Team Emergency Response Plan (ERP) in place.



Challenge by Choice

- Abseiling and climbing are adventurous activities that affect everyone differently.
- They are 'Challenge by Choice' activities. This means it must be the individuals own choice to abseil or climb, and not be coerced into doing something they simply do not wish to do.
- The Activity Team is highly skilled in roping techniques, Emergency Response, and dealing with nervous (or scared) participants.

Clothing

- NO Scout Uniforms
- Long hair must be tied back. Preferably platted and tied into a low bun.
- Suitable clothing (which meet minimum Scouts WA standards) for the weather conditions of the day. They are here to participate, not make a fashion statement. Please **NO** tank tops, lacy tops, designer clothes, skirts, or short shorts.
- You need to make sure that you do not wear clothes that expose skin around your hips. Exposed skin can result in rope burn, from the rope passing by your hips.
- Suitable closed footwear.

Hypothermia & Hyperthermia

- At the Quarry, you may be exposed to extreme weather conditions that can lead to hypothermia or hyperthermia, which in turn can result in a lack of concentration by the affected individual as well as a health risk.
- Hypothermia or hyperthermia, mixed with the hazards (i.e. height) within the quarry is a dangerous combination, which can lead to a serious incident or death.
- With proper planning prior to the day (includes reading this booklet), and monitoring your Scouts / Adult Supporters, we can greatly reduce the likelihood of an incident occurring.

Emergency Procedures

In the unlikely event of an emergency or serious incident the Activity Team shall blast a whistle, siren, or car horn three (3) times. This alert may be repeated several times after a short break.

Immediately return to the safe rest area to wait for further instructions. Do Not Run!

- If you are abseiling or climbing complete your activity as quickly as possible

Leader in Charge is required to perform a head count; and:

- keep your group together;
- await instructions from the Activity Team Leader;

Emergency Response Plan

Activity Team have an Emergency Response Plan (ERP). For a copy of the ERP please contact the Abseiling and Climbing Team.

3 WHISTLE BLOWS
GO IMMEDIATELY TO
EMERGENCY ASSEMBLY AREA
AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS

First Aid facilities

- There are no first aid facilities on site.
- Activity Team will have a first aid kit on hand.
- It is important that your group bring its own first aid kit, and appoint a qualified leader as your primary first aid officer for the activity day.



TO SCOUT SAFE

Stop and think through the Activity
Consider the Hazards
Organise the Responses to the Risks
Use Controls to Manage the Risks
Task Ready to Go?



Please advise the Activity Team Leader of any behavioural or medical conditions that may affect the safety.

Group Responsibility

It is your group's responsibility to:

- Maintain control, supervision and behaviour of all parties in your group.
- Have appointed a Leader in Charge for your group.
- Have appointed a First Aid Officer(s) for your group.

It is the responsibility of the Leader in Charge;

- Arrive before your group.
- Introduce themselves to the Activity Team Leader in charge of the day and communicate any special needs or medical concerns, i.e. asthma, attention issues, medication etc.
- Ensure everyone in your group (Youth & Leaders) have completed a Scouts WA consent form, and these forms are on site and available.
- Parties within your group are members of Scouts WA.

It is the responsibility of your First Aid Officer;

- Introduce themselves to the Activity Team Leader in charge of the day.
- Ensure your groups A5 & Y3 Health Forms are on site and available.
- Provide a suitable first aid kit.
- Apply first aid to your group should the need arise.

All Activity Team Leaders are first aid qualified. In the event of a serious incident, the Activity Team Leader may take charge of the scene and implement the Emergency Response Plan.

Mandatory Safety Briefing

- Safety briefing is conducted around 8:30am, everyone participating must attend the full safety briefing. Leaders, it is your responsibility to ensure **ALL** of your group, including leaders and helpers attends.

Anyone who does not attend the FULL Safety Briefing or arrives late may not be permitted to partake in the activity.

Pets

Pets can cause major safety concerns during abseiling and climbing, even when well trained.

Please do not bring your Dog to abseiling or climbing.



Photographs

- The Activity Team understand that people like to get photographs of their friends and family participating in exciting activities. It is not appropriate to ignore the safety rules and place yourself in imminent danger just to get a photograph.
- The Activity Team can set up a safety line to be attached to a harness to allow anyone wishing to approach the edge of the cliff in a safe manner.
- The Activity Team may take photographs for use in promoting abseiling and climbing on social media.

Public

- The site is used by members of the public.
- Youth members should be encouraged to travel in pairs or groups at all times.

Shelters

- Statham's quarry does not have any shelters near the pitches.
- It is highly recommended that your group provide its own shelters and chairs.

Pop-up shelters can be booked and loaned by contacting Branch Headquarters (BHQ). Any shelters that you loan from BHQ are your responsibility, including the collection and return of the shelters.

Supervision of Scouts/Participants

- This site is a dangerous environment.
- Safety and supervision of your Scouts is the responsibility of the Leader in Charge, and the responsibility of your Leaders/Adult Supporters.
- Leaders/Adult Supporters are responsible to ensure that everyone in your group (participating or not), behave themselves in an appropriate manner, and observe all of the safety instructions.
- Please ensure that your Scouts stay together, and are not exploring the rocks at the bottom of the cliff face.

Timetable

Abseiling and climbing sessions are generally run between 8:30am to 3:00pm

Note; the timetable for the day will be explained at the briefing and may vary from that listed below.

08:15	Arrive & Assemble at site
08:30	Safety briefing commences, Participants fitted with Equipment
09:15	Abseiling or climbing on the introductory pitch
10:00	Morning tea
13:00	Lunch
13:30	Post Lunch Briefing
13:40	Abseiling or climbing on more advanced pitches
15:00	Assemble in Rest Area Debriefing Session
15:15	Leave

Toilets

- Bush (long drop) toilet facilities are available.
- We recommend that your group brings its own toilet paper in case the facilities run out.
- The site is a public access site, the Leader in Charge is responsible for ensuring that youth members travel in pairs (minimum) when accessing the facilities.

Vehicle Access & Speed Limit

- 10km per hour speed limit
- Quarry is accessible by 2WD Vehicle. AWD or 4WD vehicles give better access. The access track is not suitable for large buses.
- Caution must be given to driving on gravel road, which can be degraded by water erosion causing deep ruts & pot holes in gravel track.
- Gravel track can be slippery during wet weather.
- There will be pedestrian traffic around the site.
- For the safety of everyone, please respect a 10km speed limit and limit vehicle traffic around the activity site.

Waste Disposal Facilities

- There is No Rubbish disposal facilities available.
- Please ensure that your group brings suitable facilities to collect and remove any rubbish from the site.

Water

- The site does not have any drinking water facilities. The quarries on a mild to hot day can become extremely hot with heat radiating off the rocks all around with little shelter for relief. It is important that you are prepared for hot weather conditions.
- Your Scouts should bring with them, in their daypacks, a minimum of 2 Litres (Cold Day) and 4 Litres (Hot Day).
- Leader in Charge should ensure that you have an additional 2-3 Litres of water per Scout/Adult Helper.

Weather Conditions

- The abseil team will monitor the weather in the lead up to the activity and may cancel the day if the weather is not suitable to run the activity.
- We recommend that you monitor the weather also to determine the equipment you will need for your group to suit the weather;

www.bom.gov.au
www.eldersweather.com.au

Bureau of Meteorology
Elders Weather

Equipment Supplied by Activity Team

The Activity Team will provide:

- Harness & Helmets
- Leather Gloves
- Figure 8 Descenders
- Carabiners
- Ropes and rigging as required

Participant Checklist

Participants should bring:

- Wear clothing suitable for the expected weather.
 - Clothing should be hard wearing, T-shirts or group activity shirts are good.
 - Tank tops, singlet's, skirts and short shorts are not suitable for rope sports.
 - Clothing should not be loose fitting or have loose objects.
 - Clothing may be damaged by moving rope.
 - Closed in footwear is to be worn.
- Ensure participants have NO exposed skin around the hips (midriff section). This is to ensure that you do not get a rope burn on exposed skin whilst abseiling.
- Day Pack
- Morning tea and lunch
- Hat
- Sunblock cream
- 2-3 litres of water
- Wet Weather Gear (if required)
- Long hair needs to be tied back, this is to ensure that your hair does not get caught in the descender whilst you are abseiling. Hair nets will be provided to those that do not have their hair suitably tied back.

Leader's Checklist

Recommended checklist to assist Leaders:

- R1 – Application for Authority to Conduct an Activity
- A5 – Adult Application to Attend Activity
- Y3 – Application to Attend Activity
- Check weather forecast, i.e. www.bom.gov.au
- Participant Checklists handed out
- 1 Leader/Adult Support for every 6 Scouts (or part thereof)
- First Aid Kit - consider including two instant cold packs
- First Aid Officer - at least one qualified 1st Aid Officer attending
- Water for leaders and participants
- Spare Toilet Paper
- Bin / Bin Bags for Rubbish
- Shelter (Optional)