



Big Rocks

Big Reward

Big Climbing!



Dear Parent,

Our *Big Climbing* activity is by invite only. Leaders discuss which members should be invited. Youngsters are invited as a result of their effort regarding their positive attitude, conduct, and maturity. Your son/daughter is one of the youngsters invited.

As well as being fun, rock climbing develops team work, is good physical activity and is very satisfying when you reach your top.

We'll be doing 'top rope' climbing and abseiling. The cost allows us to maintain and replace the equipment, so that we know it's safe both now and in future.

We consider safety to be very important. We'll make sure:

- ❖ The climbing equipment is looked after & checked
- ❖ The instructor is qualified, has been DBS checked, and has an outdoor 1st Aid qualification
- ❖ Climbs are chosen based on the age & skill level of the group
- ❖ A first aid kit is taken for the group
- ❖ The adult:child ratio is 1:4 or better

Because our first consideration is safety, we may refuse to take a child who does not have the essential items on the kit list. Also, given how exposed the crags are, we may have to postpone if it is terrible weather. We've never had to postpone yet, but think it's best to let you know it's possible.

We cannot pre-book countryside crags. This means that we may use a different set of rocks if another group gets there before us. The other options are Burbage and Stanage Edges, which both have great areas for safe group climbing. Both are also near to Hathersage. We'll still meet at Surprise View Car park though and this hasn't happened in the 3 years we've been doing this.

If anyone invited cannot come, we won't be offering the place to others, it just means the other youngsters get more time each to scale the rocks! Parents are welcome to come along. Parents please can you let me know if you want to stay for the session?

Aaron King
Leader

Kit List – Big Climbing

The rocks are remote and can be very exposed. Craggs are often shady. Weather can change very quickly even on fair days. It's important to be prepared.

The following kit is essential.

- ❖ Small or medium rucksack
- ❖ Warm/woolly hat
- ❖ Gloves
- ❖ Warm clothes, including a jumper
- ❖ Trainers
- ❖ Warm socks (or use multiple layers of socks)
- ❖ Spare jumper (important as crags can be windy)
- ❖ Waterproof jacket/trousers
- ❖ Drink
- ❖ Snack

Please line your rucksack with carrier bags or small bin liners. This keeps the contents dry if it rains.

The following kit is optional/weather dependant

- ❖ Sun tan cream
- ❖ Sun glasses & sun hat
- ❖ A towel

Directions to Surprise View Car Park

1. From Hunters Bar/Endcliffe Park, leave Sheffield on Ecclesall Road South (A625)
2. Continue on the A625 for approx. 6 miles. Continue straight on and the road becomes the A6187



3. After about 1 mile, you will come to a long straight stretch on the A6187. Surprise View Car Park is on the right. It often has an Ice Cream van.



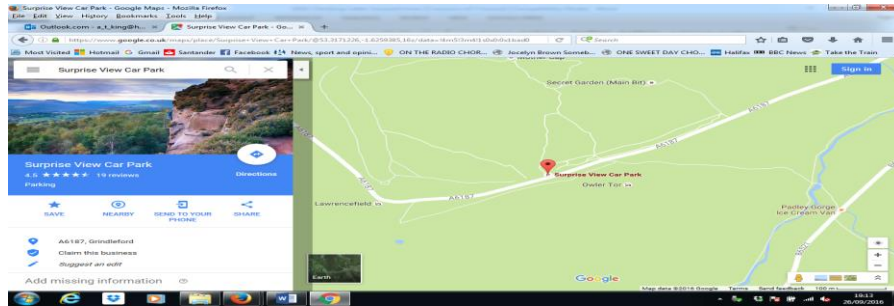
If you turn a tight right hand bend, with magnificent countryside and the town of Hathersage down the hill in front of you – you've gone too far.

The internet says the nearest postcode is S11 7TY. We don't know how accurate this is...

Directions to Surprise View Quarry (AKA Lawrencefield)

Some parents like to know exactly where we are. For example if they want to come back early to see some of the climbing.

Even though we meet at the car park, here's the detail of where Surprise View Quarry is, just in case!



From the car park, walk along the footpath on the left hand side of the road for about 5 minutes.

Keep going until you reach the bend with the *sharp bend* road signs



Follow the bend round to the right and then, where the crag on the left becomes a wall, look for a way to cross the wall on your left (stile or gap).



From this point, you will be probably be able to see our bags down the slope and to the left slightly. Head for the bags – once you've got to the bags, you can't miss us!

Some Information for Cubs about Rock Climbing

When thinking about going climbing, it helps to know that Phil and Aaron don't force Cubs up higher than they want to go.

If Cubs climb as high as the top bunk of a bunk bed and that's enough, that's fine with us.

We encourage Cubs to try to get a little higher, but don't force Cubs.

We want Cubs to enjoy climbing even more than we do!

We want Cubs to want to go climbing again.

So, even though we encourage Cubs to try their best, and we might suggest some ideas before giving up, we let Cubs come down when they're ready.

When we let Cubs down at bunk bed height, normally when the Cubs get down, they have another try and get higher.

But, if they don't that's cool too.

Do all cubs reach the top? Nope.

Does this matter? Nope.

It's just about each Cub doing their best.

After all, if we wanted an activity where all the Cubs could reach the top of something, we'd just get all the Cubs to climb up the stairs in our Wadsley Scout HQ. But that wouldn't be much of an adventure would it?

If you think it will help for parent to come along too, and parent can make it, that's cool by us.

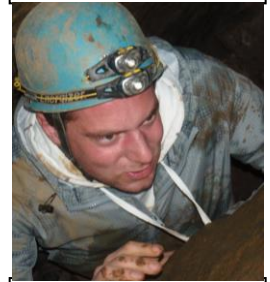
Mums and Dads don't have to climb but, if there is time, they might get the chance. They should get as high as two bunk beds because they are older, but we don't force them up either!

It might help to know that many Cubs have met Aaron before if they've been kayaking or been on Cub Summer Camp. This is because Aaron runs some kayaking sessions for very well behaved Cubs and also helps out on Cub Camp.

Animal lovers may have met Phil before because he works as a local vet. Maybe you met him when you were having puppy problems, cat catastrophes or tortoise troubles!



Phil – ready to rock climb



Aaron – going caving