

Operation Rescue Mission

Goal – Purpose of the activity.	
Here at Camp Cooby we offer a Night Activity to end the day. This unique activity has an initiative component, requiring participants to actively navigate our property while collecting clues to unlock their missing team member. The activity is run as a race, allowing groups to race other groups to be first to achieve the task.	
Participants	Leadership and Qualifications
Participants are those persons who undertake the activity, and who are not a leader or assistant leader for the activity. Dependent Participants are persons owed a duty of care by the activity provider who is reliant upon the activity leaders for supervision, guidance and instruction to support the person's participation. All participants are to be considered Dependent Participants for this activity. There will be a 1 active participant who will be briefed by the Activity Leader.	No formal Qualifications needed.
Participant/Leader Ratios	
Ratio of 1:20 + 1 School staff member (assistant leader) for school groups For non-school groups Ratio of 1:10 or a Ratio of 1:20 + 1 assistant leader	
Operational Procedures	Location: Lake Cooby
Pre activity • Check all clues are out in the field and all are easily accessible in a safe manner • Remind participants to bring torches • Collect maps and coded envelopes • Collect radios – two per channel per group • Brief each Camp Cooby staff member on the different locations of the clues During activity • Brief the participants on the rules ◦ Hidden participant is not to open the envelope until their group is physically in front of them ◦ Hidden participant is to remain in place, with supervisor, until they are found. ◦ Search party is to navigate to the hidden clues, using the directions provided by the missing person ◦ Directions provided must be in order and must not include the grid reference of the location. Directions must be based on recognisable land marks. • Send lost participants together, in a group, with supervisor, to the allocated space • Remember to Brief the kids about boundaries, no running, and the rules • Allocate leaders according to the above ratios. • Brief re radio etiquette. • Allow to start. • First group to return their lost participant, and all group members to the base wins a bag of marshmallows to use around the fire (pending allergies) Post activity • Ensure all participants have returned safely • Return all equipment back to the relevant locations.	
Equipment and Logistics	
Torches Maps Number codes – spread around the facility Coded envelopes 2 radios per group Marshmallows	

Levels of Challenge and Possible Variations

It is possible to change the allowed methods of communication or the number of numbers in the code to increase or decrease the complexity of the task.

Safety Considerations

Sun Safety

Sunburn is a risk for anyone who participates in outdoor activities, particularly in Queensland. Leaders should take reasonable steps to prevent or minimise the likelihood of staff and participants suffering excessive sun exposure.

Weather

Effective planning requires access to up-to-date weather and fire information, which is generally available through newspapers, radio and television. The most up-to-date information is available on the website of the Bureau of Meteorology at www.bom.gov.au/qld . Or <http://www.eldersweather.com.au/qld/darling-downs/geham>

Environmental and Fauna/Flora

As the night hike occurs in an open environment and across a diverse range of terrains, participants must be made aware of the following:

- Dangerous and potentially noxious vegetation (Lantana, Prickly Pear)
- Dangerous and potentially venomous animals (Snakes)

Uneven and undulating terrains

Emergency Management Procedure

- | | |
|----------|---|
| A | Assess situation, call emergency services, assist those in danger |
| E | Evacuate students, staff and visitors, if appropriate |
| I | Inform School Camp Leader onsite and off site, Camp Cooby Directors or Camp Manager if not onsite |
| O | Organise resources, advise parents |
| U | Undertake recovery operations and return site to normal |

Risk Assessment

Danger.	Risk Description	Risk Level.	Management Strategies.	Residual Risk Assessment – after Management Strategies.
Environment.				
Reduced Light / No light	Injuries. Due to not being able to see in the dark	M	Respect participants fears and encourage them to face them whilst assuring them (especially of the dark) Do NOT force an individual to participate if they are worried. Have an alternative option or safe place for the child/adult if they do not want to participate	L

			Do NOT deliberately scare the participants Torch to be carried by the facilitators and by all group members that have one. If there is a participant that does not have one pair them up with someone who does First aid kit to be carried or easily accessed and able to be delivered by staff. Use areas of the property that can be accessed by the Ute if required to remove a participant. Have on call staff available to support if required. Staff members to carry UHF radio on the walk. Maintain regular checks on the group via head counts or name call outs (through roll call) The staff member should be familiar with the route and hazards Encourage participants to look out for each other and support each other. Ensure they have the correct footwear (closed in shoe) Inform about wildlife and what to look for Provide support staff with an expected finish time	
Terrain/fitness	Fitness/Terrain	M	Participants advised on appropriate clothing and equipment (footwear) Clothing with sleeves must be worn Staff to change the course if there are concerns about fitness/terrain. Staff to check over the course before the program. Staff to have UHF radio with them to contact if student needs to be moved via vehicle to be onsite and ready if required. Provide regular stops. Encourage peer reminders and monitoring. Review weather conditions prior to the activity. Assess students ability to cope with increasingly wind conditions.	L
Winds	Falling branches Falling trees	S	Monitor winds before departure. Aggressive movement of trees nearby are an indication of thinking about strong management strategies or cancellation. No activity will take place during strong winds, or near dead trees, no pulling or swinging on trees. All dead trees and fallen branches will be monitored in initiative area. All dead trees and branches deemed a risk will be removed from the area. Review weather conditions prior to the activity. Assess students ability to cope with increasingly difficult wind conditions.	L

Rain	Wet Equipment Hypothermia Slips and trips	S	Pre-briefing and equipment list outlines appropriate clothing and wet weather gear Participants are shown how to waterproof equipment. Group condition is monitored closely during wet weather. Group to be briefed on safe practice in wet conditions using extra caution. Students will wear firmly fitting, covered footwear with a non-slip sole Participants will be instructed to be aware of the ground underfoot, and to avoid walking on damp/wet areas and to be aware of trees, branches and brambles, and not to run. If the weather conditions are assessed as unsafe to continue, the activity should be aborted and participants should be returned to safety as quickly as possible. This decision should be made earlier rather than later if in doubt.	L
Bushfire	Burns Smoke Inhalation Death	H	Participants advised on appropriate clothing and equipment. Fire pump is ready to go in trailer and participants are aware of evaluation areas. Staff to evacuate to safe points if required. Encourage peers reminders and monitoring Review weather conditions prior to activity. Aggressive heat waves are an indication of thinking about bushfire management strategies or cancellation. Fires may only be lit in specified areas. Fires should not be lit in windy conditions Participants will be briefed on emergency procedures If conditions are conducive to a bush fire or a bush fire is known to be in the area, the activity is to be aborted and participants are to be removed to a safe location.	LI
Dead Trees	Impact Injuries	M	Participants are briefed about dead trees and the likelihood of trees failing. Participants are to remain behind the leader while moving about the property so that the leader may assess the conditions and assist participants to move around the vegetation should it be blocking the path.	L
Steep banks	Sprains and Strains	M	Appropriate pathways are chosen to avoid any difficulties. Students will wear firmly fitting, covered footwear with a non-slip sole. Appropriately trained and competent staff member in attendance at all times. Appropriately stocked first aid kit to be carried at all times.	L

Rubbish	Cut Feet Embedded Objects	S	Participants are expected to wear closed in shoes at all times The facility is regularly cleared of rubbish and sharp objects.	L
Environmental Impact		M	Participants are to be briefed on specific environmental factors that concern Cooby Dam. Ensure rubbish is carried out Ensure that the designated landing areas are used and no landing zones are observed	L
Wildlife		S	Participants are expected to wear closed in shoes at all times. Appropriate pathways are chosen to avoid potential wildlife Participants will be instructed to be aware of the ground underfoot, and to avoid walking through unmown areas & to be aware of trees, branches & brambles which may be home to Various wildlife, & not to run. Pathways are kept clear and mowed to ensure all wildlife can be seen and avoided. Participants will be instructed to give all wildlife a wide berth to avoid injury. Staff will inspect all activity areas prior to use to ensure no wildlife is in close proximity.	L
People.				
Inexperience	Participants inexperienced in navigating bush environments, especially during the dark, leading to injury or becoming lost.	H	Pre-activity planning will consider whether the planned challenge matches the maturity and abilities of the group. Participants will be supervised by an experienced, suitably qualified leader who will be carrying a second, closed circuit radio with long-range connection to all other leaders. Vehicle available to evacuate participants should they become lost or injured Participants will be given clear boundaries to avoid hazardous areas. Participants will be given a detailed activity brief prior to activity. This includes instructions on how to use navigation equipment. Students will be given a smaller, easier course as a practice.	L
Poor Technique	Slips resulting in Strains and sprains	M	Pre-activity planning will consider whether the planned challenges matches the maturity and abilities of the group. Participants will be briefed on risk of slipping and on ways to minimise this risk. Students will wear firmly fitting, covered footwear with non-slip sole. Participants will be given clear boundaries to avoid	L

			hazardous areas. Suitably qualified and experienced leader with the groups at all times.	
Poor Technique	Trips resulting minor soft tissue or skeletal Injury	M	Participants will be briefed on the risks of trips and falls when completing activity- especially when completing activity under pressure. Suitably qualified and experienced leader with the groups at all times	L
Poor Technique	Participants aggravates or handles wildlife resulting in bites, strings, scratches	M	Participants are expected to wear closed in shoes at all times. Appropriate pathways are chosen to avoid potential wildlife. Participants will be instructed to be aware of the ground underfoot & to avoid walking through unmown areas & to be aware of trees, branches & brambles which may be home to various wildlife, & not to run. Pathways are kept clear and mowed to ensure all wildlife can be seen and avoided. Participants will be instructed to give all wildlife a wide berth to avoid injury. Staff will inspect all activity areas prior to use to ensure no wildlife is in close proximity. Suitably qualified and experienced leader with the groups at all times	L
Inconsiderate Participants	Participants being inconsiderate of other participants resulting in soft tissue, skeletal or emotional injury/ damage	M	Participants will be briefed on the risks associated with the activity. Inconsiderate participants will be removed from the activity. Staff will ensure safety procedures are met and will cease any ideas which may result in a participants safety being jeopardised.	L
Allergies	Environment	H	Check medical documentation sent by the school/group and ensure that there are no conditions contra-indicative to the continuance of the activity.	L
Participant becoming disconnected with the group	Lost participant, resulting in injury or spending the night in the bush	S	Suitably qualified and experienced leader with the groups at all times Participant playing the part of the "lost participant" is to be supervised by a leader/teacher at all times Participants are not permitted to remove themselves from the group unless the whole group returns to the base location. Participants are encouraged to visit the toilets before the activity starts so that they do not need to visit the toilet mid activity	L

			If a participant needs to visit a toilet, this can happen as the group moves past one of the toilet blocks in the natural flow of the game. All participants are asked to carry a torch so that they can find their way around. All participants are told to shout out for help and to head down hill if they become lost. By heading down hill, they will reach either our internal road or the fire road around the property – either will lead back to our campsite and safety.	
Equipment				
Faulty	Faulty equipment could result in further damage to equipment and increase risk of incident	.M	Staff will inspect all equipment before and after activity. All equipment will be used and maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendations Suitably qualified and experienced leader with the groups at all times	L
Incorrect use of equipment	Failure to follow activity guidelines	M	Clear instruction about how to complete activity correctly	L

Consequence					
Likelihood	Insignificant 1	Minor 2	Moderate 3	Major 4	Catastrophic 5
A (almost certain)	S	S	H	H	H
B (Likely)	M	S	S	H	H
C (Moderate)	L	M	S	H	H
D (unlikely)	L	L	M	S	H
E (rare)	L	L	M	S	S

Risk Level

H – High risk: e.g. likely or almost certain to occur, with at least moderate consequence – at least medical treatment required (See table below)

S – Significant risk

M – Moderate risk

L – Low risk

CONSEQUENCE RATING TABLE		
1	Insignificant	No injuries, No financial loss
2	Minor	First Aid treatment, Low financial loss

3	Moderate	Medical treatment required, Medium financial loss
4	Major	Extensive injuries, High financial loss
5	Catastrophic	Death, Major financial loss