

The key to keeping this activity as safe as possible is careful planning and supervision.

Beforehand, make sure you have all the ingredients, enough copies of the recipes, and the utensils needed to prepare and eat the food.

Aim to run it like lunch preparation at camp, with each patrol working separately and having a diner to eat (and maybe work) with them.

The main hazards to look out for:

Injuries caused by sharp implements, burns and scalds, youngsters not staying on task and chasing each other round, slippery floor caused by spills, trailing wires, gas not ignited properly, left on longer than needed or turned up too high; poor hygiene (dirty hands, utensils, etc.); failing to keep things tidy and dispose of waste asap.

Anyone present could be harmed.

1. Preparing the hall. Set up and clean the tables as required, using appropriate labour. Chairs should not normally be needed – leave them in the furniture store.
2. Set up the gas burners. This to be done by adult leaders only. Leaders keep matches, where required, and light gas themselves, when food is ready to be cooked. Ensure the gas feed pipes are nowhere near the burners; best place the gas bottles on the floor under the tables. Check for leaks.
3. Utensils can be fetched from the stores by youngsters as required. Check they are clean before use. Leader to supervise.
4. During food preparation, ideally one Leader/ YL to keep an eye on progress, but PLs to be in charge of their Patrol's work.
5. Remind Scouts of basics, such as reading the whole recipe before starting, laying out/weighing out the ingredients first, etc.
6. Absolutely no games or running around during this activity.
7. If any equipment is plugged in to the mains, try to ensure leads are not trailing across the floor further than necessary.
8. Mop up any spills (especially water/oil) as soon as they occur.
9. When the food is ready, serve it up hygienically and enjoy.
10. Clearing up. This is the difficult bit. No-one likes washing up. However, everything must be clean and tidy before going-home time, so try to allow plenty of time to complete this process. Some chivvying and careful planning will probably be necessary. Gas bottles and any other fuel used must be locked away in the store.