



KS2 Shelter, Survival and Wood demonstration

Whether you're studying survival as it's own subject or tying it into "wood as a material", "habitats" or "storytelling", shelter building at Wilderness Wood is an incredible adventure.

We can run various lengths of and types of activity, from just shelter building to firelighting, cooking marshmallows and cooking sausages (please see more details below)

We can also run a ranger –led walk looking at the edible plants and animals of the wood, and how you can use different plants and trees in campcraft.

A hands-on wood demonstration also allows children to try their hand at making wooden plates from coppiced wood, using hand tools in a carefully supervised setting.



SHELTER BUILDING AND FIRES

Option a) Shelter building (1 hour, max 30ch)

One of the most popular activities we run at the wood. The group is taken into the woods, about 5 minutes' walk from the Barn, to construct shelters from natural materials. We can talk of how creatures use the materials around them to make their own shelters, and they need them to protect against the weather, and perhaps predators. We can emphasise the human need for shelter, and for a community. The group is given full safety instructions (see risk assessment) and is carefully supervised to build shelters in groups of about 6. Make sure your accompanying adults know that they will be expected to help supervise and assist.

Check out each others' shelters and take photos before finishing the activity. Watch out – the leader may be testing for waterproofness!

Option b) Shelter building, Fire with marshmallows (1.5 hour, max 16 ch)

The children help gather appropriate fuel to light one small fire, and if we get time a chance to try the fire steel method of lighting. We talk about the uses of fire, from warmth, light and cooking to keeping away wild animals and maintaining morale. Bring about three marshmallows per person to and learn how to safely cook and eat them! You *will* get sticky..... The group is given full safety instructions (see risk assessment).

Option c) Shelter building with sausages and marshmallows (2 hours, max 16ch)

The group is taken into the woods, about 5 minutes' walk from the Barn, to construct shelters from natural materials. We can talk of how creatures use the materials around them to make their own shelters, and that they need them to protect against the weather, and perhaps predators. We can emphasise the human need for shelter, and for a community. The group is carefully supervised to build shelters in groups of about 6. The remaining time will be spent gathering appropriate fuel to light a small fire, over which we will cook sausages and toast marshmallows. Please bring sausages(pre-cooked), ketchup, rolls, and marshmallows – about 3 per person! The group is given full safety instructions (see risk assessment). The children can also have their packed lunches during this activity, so you may like to bring wipes too.

Check out each others' shelters and take photos before finishing the activity. Watch out – the leader may be testing for waterproofness!

WOOD DEMONSTRATION

An excellent opportunity to get hands-on with tools in a carefully supervised setting. Using a chestnut pole taken from the wood, the leader will help the children turn it into a useful item such as a shingle to use as a plate. We show the children how we make the best use of all the material, and what happens to the “waste”. The children handle tools which have been used for centuries, under careful watch and help from the leader.

Max 30 children, 1 hour activity

GUIDED WALK ON SURVIVAL FORAGING

The leader will lead the group on a hands-on rummage through the woodland in search of food, medicine, tools and fire fuel. There'll be an opportunity for testing rope materials, tasting, and learning about the dangers of poisons in the wood! We'll use collecting bags and at the end we will learn how to light a fire.

Max 30 children, one hour activity.