



OCN accredited training

Modular Forest School training (Levels 1–3 combined) OCN accredited training



Modular format for Forest School training – Borders Mar 2012

Levels 1, 2, 3 and 2–3 top up

(Venue: Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre, nr Ancrum, Jedburgh)

This is a new format for our Forest School training. It is designed to be flexible and allow individuals to stage their training and development in the way that best suits them. The modules are progressive and you can complete the modules up to foundation, assistant or leader levels. The foundation and assistant qualifications can then be topped up with the leader modules should you want to progress to leader level at any time in the future.

Foundation (Level 1) – an introduction to the concept of Forest School, covering general health & safety, basic identification skills, an introduction to play and its links to Forest School.

Assistant (Level 2) – for those wishing to assist a Level 3 leader at Forest School, with greater confidence, practical skills and understanding of woodland ecology and a deeper understanding of the forest school ethos and how to apply it.

Leader (Level 3) – the nationally recognized standard for leading at a Forest School.

The training is divided into 2-day modules, taking place over weekends, making it easier for those who work in schools to attend training without necessarily incurring supply costs.

Each module is accompanied by workbooks of short written answers, allowing students to complete their coursework whilst they are progressing through the training modules. This allows us to give you feedback throughout the course. It also reduces the amount of written work needed to complete the final portfolio at the end of the Level 3 leadership course.

We continue to require two assessments for those training to level 3 (practical skills assessment and delivery assessment) as this ensures a level of competence with tools, fire and, most importantly, leadership at Forest School.



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About Forest School

Forest School is an empowering and creative approach to learning and development, for children, young people and adults, which maximises the benefits of learning in the outdoors. It offers participants the opportunity, over repeated visits, to engage with the rich natural diversity of our wild environments to help build confidence, curiosity, resilience, compassion and healthy bodies and minds.

Forest School's positive effects on learners, staff and their wider community are increasingly recognised by HMIE, LTS and a growing number of Scottish learning professionals as an ideal vehicle for delivering our Curriculum for Excellence and putting the learner at the heart of their learning experience.

About BigWorld and Forest School Training Company training

Aline Hill (BigWorld) is a passionate Forest School practitioner of seven years' experience. She has been delivering highly regarded Forest School training in Scotland for more than three years as part of the Forest School Training Company's team and is currently Scotland's most experienced trainer, working regularly with Forestry Commission Scotland, East Lothian Council, Edinburgh Forest Education Initiative, Borders Forest Trust, South Lanarkshire Council, Scottish Native Woodlands and Glasgow Countryside Ranger Service amongst others.

Her areas of particular Forest School expertise are early years, primary school and adults with health and well being issues. For more information see www.forestschoolltraining.co.uk.



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About the modular format

Dates

Module	Description	Dates	L1	L2	L2/3 topup	L3
Module 1	Forest School Foundation	Sat 3 & Sun 4 Mar 12	√	√		√
Module 2	Leader 1	Sat 31 Mar & Sun 1 Apr		√		√
Module 3	Leader 2 (L2–3 step ups join here)	Sat 29 & Sun 30 Sep			√	√
Module 4	Leader 3	Sat 3 & Sun 4 Nov			√	√
Module 5	Practical Skills Assessment	Sat 10 Nov			√	√
Module 6	Delivery Assessment*	2 hrs, at your FS site			√	√

Training starts at 9am and finishes at 5pm for Modules 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.

Forest School Foundation – this module is an introduction to the concept of Forest School, covering general health & safety, basic identification skills, an introduction to play and its links to Forest School.

Leader 1, Leader 2 & Leader 3 – these modules are progressive, each covering the key elements of Forest School in increasing depth and each requiring completion of a module workbook. The content of these three Leader Modules will cover the application of learning theories to Forest School, methods of increasing self-esteem and working on emotional intelligence, group management, communication strategy, risk management, ecological impact assessment/management plan, as well as working with tools and campfires for use at Forest School.

Practical Skills Assessment – Level 3 and Level 2–3 top-up students will be assessed on their competence with knots and their safe use of tools and fire-craft.

Delivery Assessments – Level 3 and Level 2–3 top-up students are assessed for leadership skills in Module 6. This assessment takes place at the student’s FS site. An additional charge of £75 plus 40p a mile is levied for students working outside a 30-mile radius of the training venue.

First Aid – level 3 students will need to hold a valid First Aid for Outdoors (which includes paediatrics) before they run their Forest School Programme of 6 sessions (after module 5). Minimum 16 hr first aid in the outdoors.

Equipment and Kit - the tools and equipment required on the training will be provided by the BigWorld. Students are required to purchase their own Safety boots (approved Safety Wear for Level 2 and upwards and to provide their own waterproofs and outdoor clothing for use on the training.



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Estimated course commitment

	Taught time (hours)	Self-study time (hours)	Total (hours)
Level 3	72	110	182
Level 2 → 3	40	88	128
Level 2	32	30	62
Level 1	16	14	30

Total course costs (no VAT is applicable)

	If paying in 1 installment	Cost to top up to L3
Level 3	£880	
Level 2	£450	£550
Level 1	£280	£700

NB Level 3 candidates will need to ensure that they hold a valid First Aid in the Outdoors qualification, with a paediatric element if applicable (min 16 hour). This cost is not included in the course costs above. Candidates book this separately, and can use ILA accounts with some providers.

Entry requirements

Level 3 candidates must:

- be over 21 years of age
- be a qualified teacher, play worker, youth worker or support worker (to **level 2** or equivalent) **OR** compile a portfolio of at least **2 years experience** of working with their chosen client group in a leadership capacity.
- Have access to a group with whom they'll run a 6-session practice Forest School programme

Level 2 candidates must:

- be over 18 years of age
- have some experience and/or qualifications in working with their chosen client group
- have access to a programme run by a Level 3 qualified FS practitioner for 3 sessions of planning, participation and observation

Level 1 candidates must:

- be over 18 years of age
- have some experience in working with their chosen client group
- have access to a programme run by a Level 3 qualified FS practitioner for 1 session of planning, participation and observation (BigWorld may be able to facilitate this if a suitable programme is not to hand)

Further course information

Please contact course leader, aline hill, for more detailed information on the level of training that you're interested in (aline_hill@hotmail.com/07796677059). You can also view more information on the different levels of training at www.forestschoolltraining.co.uk/training/levels-of-training/.