

Forest School leader awards for Scotland

Forest & Outdoor Learning Awards (FOLA)

SCQF-accredited training levels 5 to 8



Forest School
Training

Course details flyer – Craufurdland Estate, Kilmarnock Spring 2024

Blended online and woodland Forest School (FOLA) training starting April 2024

Run by Mike Brady, FSTC Associate Trainer.

Woodland venue: Craufurdland Estate, a lovely woodland on the edges of Kilmarnock.

To book complete the online booking registration form [here](#)

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmdpT_ur0fEHRRooTp-AweXzfHwjvHZFCOfG6OhKR8XdD9Pw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

FSTC have been at the heart of Forest School training in the UK and Scotland since the early 2000s. Our enthusiastic team of trainers have long experience of delivering Forest School programmes with learners and each has areas of specialist knowledge. This course is being led by Mike Brady who was on the first Forest School Training course in Scotland, He has been delivering Forest School training since 2008.

Forest School First Aid (16-hr outdoor first aid) is available through our trainer Aline Hill, who gets consistently top ratings for her courses, which are valued for their relevance and hands-on focus. You can view dates here (<https://www.forestschooltraining.co.uk/training/first-aid/>). (Level 8s require to hold a 16-hour first aid qualification when delivering their 8-session practice forest school block.)

See next pages for online and woodland dates and times.

Note on course structure: the FOLA course is modular. Everyone starts at Level 5 (on the same course) and you can take the course as far as you want to. The higher the level you want to achieve, the more of the course you complete.

Level 5s: attend the first day and half of woodland sessions and the first seminar and then stop. Level 6s attend the first 3 woodland days and the first 2 seminars and then stop.

Level 8s: complete the whole course.

If at a later date you want to complete more of the course, you just pick up where you left off. On the information below these are the three “step ups”

The dates for all 3 levels are outlined in the 2 tables below. There are dates for online sessions and also for woodland sessions. Just look at the line for the Level you want to complete and ignore the rest!

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Woodland sessions				
All sessions take place from 9am to around 5pm (depending on light levels) in most weathers.				
	Day 1	Day 2 (L5 students finish at lunchtime) (L5-6 & 5-8 step-up students start at lunchtime)	Day 3	Days 4, 5, 6
Dates / Levels	16/4/24	9/5/24	11/6/24	23/8/24, 9/9/24,16/9/24
Level 5	√	√ (am only)		
Level 6	√	√	√	
Level 5 to 6 step-up		√ (pm only)	√	
Level 5 to 8 step-up		√ (pm only)	√	√
Level 6 to 8 step-up				√
Level 8	√	√	√	√

Online sessions				
All sessions take place on zoom, from 6-8.30 pm				
	Course launch	Seminar 1	Seminar 2	Seminars 3 & 4
Dates / Levels	25/4/24	21/5/24	18/6/24	29/8/24 & 19/9/24
Level 5	√	√		
Level 6	√	√	√	
Level 5 to 6 step-up	√	√	√	
Level 5 to 8 step-up	√	√	√	√
Level 6 to 8 step-up	√	√	√	√
Level 8	√	√	√	√

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More about online study element (accessed through <https://fstcscotland.gurucan.com/>)

Our self-paced study programme allows you to access and revisit the materials needed to prepare for online seminars whenever you like!

The programme is organised into modules. Each module contains a number of short lessons. Each lesson begins with a pre-recorded video, supported by handouts, links and other sources of information that we think might help you. You chose what to engage with, and how. This enables you to take a more flexible approach to your own learning, and to fit it in with your life and prior experience in the way that suits you best.

There are a few short 'required exercises' in each module that you will need to do to prepare for the online seminar that ends each module. These exercises allow all of your training group to fully take part in the seminars together and support each other as fellow students. Some of your coursework can be assessed through this participation if you choose.

Estimated course commitment & costs						
SCQF level	Online seminar hours*	Self-paced video time	Woodland sessions hours	Remaining self study hours	Total hours	Total cost (no vat applicable)
Level 5	5.5	2	12	29	48	£475
Level 5 to 6 step up	8	3.5	12	24.5	48	£550
Level 5 to 8 step up	13	7	36	119	168	£1130
Level 6	8	3.5	24	24.5	60	£780
Level 6 to 8 step-up	8	3	24	88	120	£925
Level 8	13	7	48	112	180	£1270

***Note for online sessions:** The seminars are not recorded. We expect you to attend in person to allow you to be fully involved in group discussions and assessments. You will be responsible for making up the missed content in your own time.

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FAQs

Q: Are there any hidden costs?

FSTC prices are fully inclusive of all course costs, including: qualification registration & certification, marking & moderation, administration, course support resources plus access to our online study support resources, and tutor support. We do not charge for late submission of work (unless the submission date has gone beyond what is required by our moderators). For level 8 students, there is a 45p per mile charge for delivery assessments outwith a 30-mile radius of the nearest available assessor. Discretionary charge for travel time above 1.5 hrs round trip at £25/hour. A video assessment option is available for candidates where additional assessment charges would be prohibitive.

Q: Are there any other costs to think about?

Level 8 students will need to hold an appropriate 16-hour Outdoor First Aid certificate before leading their 8 sessions of Forest School (after Module 4). This is not part of the FOLA course and will need to be sourced and paid for separately. They are currently around £150. You can find our courses [here](#)

Students will also need to ensure they are adequately insured to run Forest School activities before leading their 8 sessions. This will need to be arranged separately, if not already covered by an employer.

Q: I don't know what level I should do. How can I find out more?

A: The criteria for each level can be found in the Qualification Information document on our website [here](#). Have a read and if you're still unsure email me mike@forestschoolscotland.co.uk

Q: I would like to do Level 5 (or 5-6 / 5-8 step-up). I am confused about why the woodland Day 2 is a half day for me.

A: The level 5 course content is covered in the morning session. Level 6 content begins after lunch. To keep course cost lower for participants, we decided to run them on the same day rather than have two separate half days. If you wish you are welcome to attend for the whole day.

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Q: What do I need for the online Zoom sessions?

You need an online device of some kind with a video camera and microphone. We do not recommend using mobile phones or tablets as you may lack some of the required functions. Find more information [here](#).

Q: I don't have access to a computer. Can I still do the course just on a mobile phone or tablet?

A: We would not recommend that. Your options for engagement are much more limited on those devices, for both the self-paced learning modules and the online seminar sessions. If you chose to book anyway, be aware that some elements won't work for you in the way they do for other students.

Q: I don't learn well through online learning. Can you provide those things in a different format for me?

A: No, sorry. A lot of our course is designed to be run online. This allows our students maximum flexibility in managing their learning in an unpredictable world. If you don't like learning online then this course probably isn't the right one for you.

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