



Training course requirements

Level 2 Award for Forest School Assistants

(Accredited by the Open College Network West Midlands OCNWM)

- Participants should be over 18 years old and have some experience of working with young people or adults, for example youth workers, teaching assistants or teachers.
- All participants must be DBS checked.
- Attend the four days of theory and practice.
- Be able to assist with the planning and delivery of three Forest School sessions.
- Complete a workbook of evidence.
- Course commitment approximately 60 hours.
- Option to attend a monthly mentoring session (these are not compulsory but highly recommended).

The course should take participants six months to complete, although some have handed all coursework in after a few months. It can take several months for the work to be marked and for the Examination board to validate and send the certificate to us.

Level 3 Certificate for Forest School Leaders

(Accredited by the Open College Network West Midlands OCNWM)

- The minimum age to start this qualification is 19 years old. Participants must have significant experience of working with young people or adults, for example youth workers, teaching assistants or teachers. The minimum age to practice as a Forest School Leader is 21 years old (this is a Forest School Association and Department of Education requirement).
- All participants must be DBS checked.
- When leading a Forest School you will need a First Aid qualification, this can be either First Aid at Work (3 days) or Outdoor First Aid (2 days). Due to the outdoor nature of the work, an Outdoor First Aid qualification is strongly recommended, especially if forest school sessions take place in remote locations. We run First Aid courses throughout the year as part of our CPD for forest school practitioners, please contact outreach@surreywt.org.uk
- Attend the initial five days of theory and practice.
- Able to set up and run six forest school sessions to a target client group within a woodland setting.
- We will arrange an on-site training visit to your setting during one of your sessions.
- Complete a portfolio of research and written tasks.
- Attend a further two skills assessment days – about four months into the Level 3 course, this will include cooking over a fire and shelter building. This is also a great opportunity to discuss any challenges, share tips and ask questions.
- Course commitment approximately 180 hours.
- Option to attend a monthly mentoring session (these are not compulsory but highly recommended).

The course should take participants nine months to complete, although some have handed all the coursework in after a few months. It can take several months for the work to be marked and for the Examination board to validate and send the certificate to us.