

CPD day for Outdoor Learning Professionals and Practitioners

hosted by IOL, AHOEC & SOLD



Thursday 19th
February 2026



9am - 4pm



High Ashurst Outdoor Education
Centre, Dorking, Surrey



Institute for Outdoor Learning / Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development / Association of Heads of Outdoor Centres

An inspiring and exciting day of CPD for outdoor learning professionals aimed at all levels and experience from apprentice to manager and everyone in-between! Packed full of practical and theoretical workshops to develop your skills, knowledge and understanding. Delivered at the wonderful High Ashurst Outdoor Learning Centre in the heart of the Surrey Hills Protected Landscape. This event is also a chance to network and share good practice with our outdoor learning community, eat lovely food and feel energised about the amazing work you do.

WHO IS IT FOR?

If you are involved in the delivery or management of outdoor learning experiences, this day is for you. Outdoor Centre/school-based practitioners, freelancers, apprentices or mobile outdoor learning providers are all welcome.

WORKSHOPS (please choose after you book):

We have a choice of over 20 varied workshop options including the following (fuller details overleaf):

- Bushcraft
- Orienteering
- Inclusion
- Environment
- Paddle sport
- Roped activity
- Archery
- Nature Connection
- Business Development
- Working with SEND
- Managing/developing staff
- Safety compliance
- Sector Updates



'This collaborative event has been subsidised by IOL, AHOEC, SOLD and the many workshop deliverers who have offered their time and expertise at no or low cost. This is to ensure that as many members as possible from across IOL and AHOEC benefit from this valuable professional development opportunity at an affordable price'.

COST:

£45 Early Bird

(until 19th January)

£55 after 19th January

BOOK NOW



www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/cpd-day-for-outdoor-learning-professionals-and-practitioners.html

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WORKSHOPS - 2 sessions in the morning and 2 in the afternoon

(please choose after you book via a link we will send):

- **Using a Growth Mindset approach to develop resilience and a positive mindset through Outdoor Learning:** Find out about the importance and methods for building Resilience and a 'Growth Mindset' for participants through outdoor learning programmes
- **Transforming Orienteering with Technology:** Discover how to enhance orienteering sessions with digital tools. This practical workshop will showcase how the Outdoor Classroom app can transform traditional activities, helping you deliver engaging experiences that connect to a broad range of curriculum outcomes while making the most of your outdoor setting.
- **Creating Inclusive outdoor learning environments:** Understand some practical ways in which you can offer and deliver outdoor learning in a more inclusive way to meet the needs of neurodivergent learners and why this is so important.
- **Enhancing your Bushcraft skills and confidence.** Learn how to improve your Bushcraft or Woodland activity sessions with some new skills and ideas which can be applied to your outdoor learning setting.
- **Understanding the Paddle Award Scheme with Paddle UK:** Any qualified Paddle UK coach, instructor or leader can deliver the paddle awards! Through this interactive workshop, Dan Daley will explore how you can incorporate the Paddle Awards into your existing offer as an organisation. The Paddle Awards are rewarding, both for the sport, the provider and the participant. We will guide you through the courses on offer, with option that fit in to a single session, through to providing a framework for a longer series of sessions, the helpful resources available and look at how you might promote this to the people that you work with.
- **Traditional High Ropes, ground based interventions:** This practical workshop looks at options to prevent and resolve problems early on, reducing the likely hood of rescues at height. Have your staff considered all the options before harnessing themselves up? Are they aware of the options they have?
- **Managing Challenging Behaviour in an Outdoor Learning Environment:** Learn some practical strategies and ideas for managing challenging behaviour in a positive way in an outdoor learning setting.
- **Teaching the National Curriculum actively outdoors:** Learn how to adapt your Outdoor Learning sessions to meet the requirements of a range of National Curriculum subjects and topics
- **Connecting to Nature for Emotional Well-Being:** Learn how to incorporate Nature Connection activities into your Outdoor Learning programmes in order to improve emotional well-being and mental health.
- **Rock Climbing for Sight Impairment:** Awareness of sight impairment and how this can be managed in a climbing session for a positive climbing or bouldering experience
- **Systems of Safety and lessons learnt in Outdoor Learning settings:** Hear about the different ways in which safety in the outdoors can be successfully managed and the lessons learned from recent accidents and incidents
- **Professional Devept in the Outdoor Learning Sector:** How to benefit from continuous professional development in the outdoor learning sector using IOL's professional accreditation scheme
- **Using an Outdoor Learning approach to deliver successful Alternative Learning programmes:** Outdoor Learning is being increasingly used as an impactful learning approach for children and young people who are not succeeding in a formal school setting. This workshop will explain how this can be successfully done.
- **GROW Coaching for Performance:** Using the GROW model of coaching to successfully manage and enhance the performance of your team.
- **Creating more biodiversity and sustainable learning sessions in your setting:** The National Education Nature Park is the DfE strategy for increasing biodiversity and sustainable learning in school grounds. Hear more about this strategy and how you can apply this to your outdoor learning setting.
- **Look around High Ashurst and hear about SOLD:** Have a 'walk and talk' around High Ashurst to learn more about the centre, what we deliver and how the SOLD Service operates
- **Delivering Outdoor Learning with Innovation:** Discuss shared good practice around creative and innovative outdoor learning delivery using a diverse range of funding streams, delivery partners and learning outcomes for social value and financial sustainability.
- **Building emotional resilience in your team:** Discuss the challenges around poor mental health and emotional resilience in your staff teams and ways in which this can be successfully managed.
- **Different ways to deliver engaging Archery:** Learn some varied ways to deliver engaging and progressive Archery sessions in your Outdoor Learning setting

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