



Bushcraft and Forest School courses events offered by IOL Organisational Members

Forest School Association Conference 2026 – The Power of Play

25-27 Sept 2026, at Walesby Forest, Nottingham.

<https://forestschoolassociation.org/>

Download an application form here:



Level 3 Bushcraft Competency Award (IOL Accredited)

27-28 April

Mount Cook Adventure Centre. Matlock, Derbyshire. £235pp.

Level: Intermediate. The programme is suitable for those entering bushcraft and those who have some experience would like to achieve a qualification to

support their continuing professional development.

This course goes into the evening (until approx 9pm) **All accommodation and meals provided**

<https://www.mountcook.uk/iol-bushcraft>



Competency Certificate Training (IOL Accredited)

25-27 November

Mount Cook Adventure Centre. Matlock, Derbyshire. £325pp.

Level: Intermediate. This programme is ideal for individuals who have completed the Award or have prior experience in delivering bushcraft skills,

and are looking to deepen their expertise and earn a comprehensive, recognised qualification in bushcraft instruction. This course goes into the evening (until approx 9pm) **All accommodation and meals provided**

<https://www.mountcook.uk/iol-bushcraft>

Curriculum Based Outdoor Learning Practitioner (Level 2) (CBOL)

22.04.26, 23.04.26.

Forest School Swansea Neath Port Talbot, Swansea

Contact details: office@forestschoolsnpt.org.uk 01792 367118

£425 (Incl VAT)

<https://www.forestschoolsnpt.org.uk/training-course/outdoor-learning-practitioner-level-2-cbol-2/>

Level 3 Coastal School Top-Up

30.04.26 / 01.05.26

Forest School Swansea Neath Port Talbot, Swansea

Contact details: office@forestschoolsnpt.org.uk 01792 367118

£320 (Incl VAT)

<https://www.forestschoolsnpt.org.uk/training-course/coastal-school-level-3-top-up/>

Level 3 Forest School Leader

15.09.26 / 16.09.26 / 17.09.26 / 18.09.26 and 13.10.26 / 14.10.26 / 15.10.26 / 16.10.26 (Compulsory to attend all 8 dates)

Forest School Swansea Neath Port Talbot, Swansea

Contact details: office@forestschoolsnpt.org.uk 01792 367118

£1200 (Incl VAT)

<https://www.forestschoolsnpt.org.uk/training-course/forest-school-leader-level-3/>



Bushcraft Competency Award - 2 Day Course - IOL ACCREDITED

See their website for dates.

Course Fee: £225. This fee also covers all meals and hot drinks during the course.

Explore the Great Outdoors. Chase Wood. Warminster. Wiltshire.

Email: getout@explorethegreatoutdoors.co.uk

Website: <https://www.explorethegreatoutdoors.co.uk/bushcraft-courses.php>

Telephone: Pete 07920104466 Jacqui: 07776220196

This course spans two days, offering 16 hours of guided learning under the supervision of qualified instructors. After the initial training, students are required to complete a 60-hour consolidation period, where they will practice and refine the skills they have learned, logging their experiences in a logbook to track their progress. A 1/2day assessment, which is booked separately, will evaluate their competency and mastery of the course material. **This course syllabus covers five key units, including:**

- **Edged Tools:** Safe handling and use of knives and saws for various bushcraft tasks.
- **Fire:** Techniques for creating and maintaining fire using modern and primitive methods.
- **Water:** Finding, collecting, and purifying water in the wilderness.
- **Tarp Shelters & Knts:** Techniques to set up a tarp and create an effective shelter and various tarp configurations also mastering essential knots for securing your shelter.
- **Tree Identification:** Recognizing and understanding different tree species and their uses in bushcraft.
- **Campfire Cooking:** Different methods for cooking on a campfire, boiling, hot smoking, baking dutch oven, spit roasting.

Suitable for a wide range of people working or volunteering in formal or non-formal settings such as early years, schools, colleges, outdoor centres, education centres, wildlife trusts, national parks, youth and voluntary organisations, etc.



Bushcraft Competency Certificate - 3 Day Course - IOL ACCREDITED

Fri 10 - Sun 12 April, Fri 7 - Sun 9 August, Fri 2 - Sun 4 October 2026

Fee: £325. Fee also covers all meals + hot drinks.

Explore the Great Outdoors. Chase Wood. Warminster. Wiltshire.

Email: getout@explorethegreatoutdoors.co.uk

Website: <https://www.explorethegreatoutdoors.co.uk/bushcraft-courses.php>

Telephone: Pete 07920104466 Jacqui: 07776220196

The course spans three days, offering 24 hours of guided learning under the supervision of qualified instructors. After the initial training, students are required to complete a 120-hour consolidation period, where they will practice and refine the skills they have learned, logging their experiences in a logbook to track their progress. A one-day assessment, which is booked separately, will evaluate their competency and mastery of the course material. **This course syllabus covers eight key units, including:**

- **Edged Tools:** Safe handling and use of knives and saws for various bushcraft tasks.

- **Fire:** Techniques for creating and maintaining fire using modern and primitive methods.
- **Bow Drill:** Mastery of traditional friction fire techniques, focusing on the bow drill method.
- **Water:** Finding, collecting, and purifying water in the wilderness.
- **Debris Shelters:** Building effective, weather-resistant shelters from natural materials.
- **Tree Identification:** Recognizing and understanding different tree species and their uses in bushcraft.
- **Natural Navigation:** Using environmental cues, such as the sun, stars, and land features, to navigate without modern tools.
- **Cordage:** Learning to create strong, natural ropes and bindings from plant materials.

Suitable for a wide range of people working or volunteering in formal or non-formal settings such as early years, schools, colleges, outdoor centres, education centres, wildlife trusts, national parks, youth and voluntary organisations, etc.

All courses are conducted by experienced, Institute for Outdoor Learning-approved instructors, ensuring a safe and supportive environment as participants develop their bushcraft skills.

Bushcraft Competency Award - IOL ACCREDITED



Friday 15th - Sunday 17th May 2026
 Friday 14th - Sunday 16th August 2026
 Friday 16th - Sunday 18th October
 Jack Raven Bushcraft. Jack Raven Bushcraft Camp, Kent. 07553 763397,
info@jackravenbushcraft.co.uk, www.jackravenbushcraft.co.uk

Bushcraft Competency Certificate - IOL ACCREDITED



Friday 10th - Sunday 12th April 2026
 Friday 19th - Sunday 21st June 2026
 Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd August 2026
 Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th October 2026

Jack Raven Bushcraft. Jack Raven Bushcraft Camp, Kent. 07553 763397,
info@jackravenbushcraft.co.uk, www.jackravenbushcraft.co.uk

The syllabus meets the IOL Statement of Good Practice. On this intensive 3 day course you will cover:

- UK knife law and its relevance to bushcraft,
- Safe use of basic bushcraft tools such as knives, folding saws and bow saws,
- How to sharpen a bushcraft knife,
- Making simple carved implements such as a tent peg or feather stick,
- Safe shelter construction, including 'A' frame and 'lean to' debris shelters,
- Importance of insulating yourself from the ground in a debris shelter by creating an improvised bed,
- Establishing fires by: bow drill, fire steel, flint and steel, lenses, mirrors, chemicals, matches, fire pistons, lighters, batteries & wire wool,
- Constructing and using a tinder bundle to light a fire,
- Locating, filtering and purifying water,
- Tree identification and uses, including food sources available from trees,
- How to prepare and make natural cordage from a variety of sources,
- Natural navigation using shadow sticks, a watch, the moon and stars,
- And of course, ensuring that we leave no trace

Throughout the course we will provide advice and guidance on tools and equipment and how to teach the skills covered to other people, whether that be individuals or groups, all based on our own years of experience.

To be added to the register of holders of the IOL Bushcraft Competency Certificate, you will need to log 120 quality hours and attend a separate assessment, as well as join the IOL and the Bushcraft Professional Practice Group. Memberships and assessments are administered through the IOL.

Take a look at our 'IOL Hall of Fame' to see photos of the people that we know have successfully taken their assessment. and gained the IOL Bushcraft Competency Certificate.

Link: <https://www.jackravenbushcraft.co.uk/bushcraft-qualifications/iol-bushcraft-competency-certificate/>

Level 3 Certificate for Forest School Leaders

7th October 2026 - 13th November 2026

Field Studies Council. Bishops Wood, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 9SE. £1099

T:01743 852100 T:01299 250513

enquiries.bw@field-studies-council.org

<https://www.field-studies-council.org/courses-and-experiences/static-courses/level-3-certificate-for-forest-school-leaders/>

Level 2 Award in Forest School Assistants

7th October 2026 - 15th October 2026

Field Studies Council. Bishops Wood, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 9SE. £588

T: 01743 852100 T: 01299 250513

enquiries.bw@field-studies-council.org

<https://www.field-studies-council.org/courses-and-experiences/static-courses/level-2-award-in-forest-school-assistants/>

Level 1 Forest School Ethos and Principles

7th October 2026 - 8th October 2026

Field Studies Council. Bishops Wood, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 9SE. £273

T: 01743 852100 T: 01299 250513

enquiries.bw@field-studies-council.org

<https://www.field-studies-council.org/courses-and-experiences/static-courses/level-1-forest-school-ethos-and-principles/>

IOL Level 3 Bushcraft Competency Certificate

10-12 April, 23-25 Oct 2026

Incl. overnight self-catered camping.

Polaris Wilderness Adventure Ltd. Bayford, SG1 8QB

IOL Members £325.00. Non members £350.00

T: 07971289604

info@polarisbushcraft.co.uk

<https://www.polarisbushcraft.co.uk/iol-bushcraft-competency-certificate>

Bushcraft Competency Award - 2 day course - IOL ACCREDITED

WOODLAND SURVIVAL CRAFTS

Bushcraft and Survival Skills Specialists

Woodland Survival Crafts. Ashton under Lyme.

See their website for dates.

<https://www.woodlandssurvivalcrafts.com/shop/p/bushcraft-competency-award>

T: 07736 225035 Dave dave@woodlandssurvivalcrafts.com

This is a 2-day, IOL-approved course designed very much for outdoor professionals/centre staff wanting to deliver short sessions of quality bushcraft. As a result it is often run as a bespoke course for 3 or more of your instructors. Course dates for individuals are available as listed and are

sometimes being run at different locations around the country.
Site requirements to run a course at your venue are:

- a selection of fire places or bases
- enough trees or equivalent to use for tarp shelters
- toilets and water
- a covered area out of the wind.

Bushcraft Competency Certificate - 3 day course - IOL ACCREDITED

WOODLAND SURVIVAL CRAFTS

Bushcraft and Survival Skills Specialists

Woodland Survival Crafts. Spring Wood, Derbyshire

See their website for dates. £325 (£300 IOL Members)

An ideal training course for Outdoor Professionals leading to the Bushcraft Competency Certificate developed through the IOL.

<https://www.woodlandcrafts.com/shop/p/bushcraft-competency-certificate>

T: 07736 225035 Dave dave@woodlandcrafts.com

Designed especially for Outdoor Centres and Professionals, our Bushcraft Competency Certificate Training three day course will build on your basic bushcraft skills, allowing you to enhance your existing bushcraft/forest school sessions.

As an approved training course with the Institute for Outdoor Learning, you will be able to use this along with a further 100 hours +/- of Bushcraft based experience in order to work towards the Bushcraft Competency Certificate. This award is increasingly recognised within outdoor learning circles as suitable clarification of safe and competent practice.

Whether you are a Forest School Leader, Environmental Education Officer or Outdoor Instructor, you will find the course incredibly beneficial – enhancing your bushcraft knowledge and confidence in teaching.

During the three days you will learn and enhance the key skills of bushcraft, including:

- Effective shelter building
- Confident and safe knife skills
- Successful friction fire lighting
- Efficient water filtering
- Inspiring tree identification
- String making
- Accurate direction finding

Over the years we have trained many teams in the UK and occasionally overseas. For centres and organisations wanting several staff members trained, please contact us to create your own course.

Bushcraft Competency Training 2 days - IOL ACCREDITED



14th-15th March, 24th-25th October 2026. Woodland Classroom, Wrexham, N. Wales.

<https://woodlandclassroom.com/event/iol-bushcraft-competency-award/>

<https://woodlandclassroom.com/event/iol-bushcraft-competency-award-2/>

This accredited training course is designed for instructors, leaders and teachers who want to demonstrate that they follow good practice and have a high level of safety and competency in a range of bushcraft skills.

This 2 day course is designed for the outdoor learning workforce including FE/HE students, apprentices, instructors and teachers. It is suitable for a wide range of people working or volunteering in formal or non-formal settings such as early years, schools, colleges, outdoor centres, education centres, wildlife trusts, national parks, youth and voluntary organisations. Wherever you are on your journey into bushcraft we aim to bring your confidence and skillset forward to the next level.

This 2 day course is open to all with an interest in passing bushcraft skills and knowledge on to others. The course covers 5 key bushcraft skill units; edged tools – knives & saws, fire, water, tarp shelters & knots and campfire cooking.

Our weekend long course is all set against the backdrop of mixed woodlands, wetlands and open meadows of [Park In The Past](#), with 120 acres of wild space to explore. Students are encouraged to camp over in the woods, with the option of staying over on both the Friday and Saturday, or just Saturday night.

This course covers five essential bushcraft skillsets