SURREY HILLS FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School Leader Level 3 Training Course

Overview of the Course

The Level 3 Forest School Leader training course is a comprehensive program designed to provide you with all the essential skills and knowledge needed to lead creative, safe, and inspiring Forest School sessions. This accredited training is recognised by the Forest School Association and delivered by Surrey Hills Forest School.

Whether you're an early years practitioner, teacher, youth worker, or someone passionate about nature-based learning, this course equips you to deliver exceptional Forest School experiences, fostering independence, creativity, and a love for the outdoors in children.

Course Content

The training is structured around five key units:

1. Forest School Programme: Delivery
2. Forest School Programme: Learning & Development
3. Forest School Programme: Planning & Preparation
4. Forest School Programme: Practical Skills
5. Forest School Programme: The Woodland Environment

Entry Requirements

To undertake this course, you must meet the following criteria:

- You are 18 years or older
- You hold a Level 2 Forest School Assistant qualification (or equivalent experience in education, such as childcare or youth work)
- You have at least two GCSEs at grade 5 or above
- You have an established link with a client group and a proposed Forest School site

We also recommend that you:

- Hold an enhanced DBS certificate
- Have an Outdoor First Aid qualification (to be completed before starting your Forest School sessions with your client group)

Why Choose Surrey Hills Forest School?

- **Experienced Trainers:** Our lead trainer, Lee Davis, brings years of practical experience in Forest Schools and Early Years education.
- **Supportive Learning Environment:** We offer hands-on training, with ample opportunity for practical application in the outdoor environment.
- **Forest School Association Endorsement:** Our course is accredited and recognised nationally, ensuring you receive a high-quality education that meets the industry standards.

Course Details

- **Duration:** 8 days (Fridays, 9am - 4pm)
- **Course Dates:** 8 Jan, 15 Jan, 22 Jan, 29 Jan, 5 Feb, 12 Feb, 5 Mar, 12 Mar
  (All session must be attended to complete the course)
- **Location:** Training held at Bramley Cricket Club and Birtley Estate, Guildford
- **Cost:** £1,100 for the 8-day course
  (plus an additional fee to be paid directly to Cambium Sustainable Limited for your final accreditation)

Cost Breakdown

- Training Course Fee: £1,100 for the 8-day course (this covers training materials, assessment, and ongoing support)
- Final Accreditation Fee: An additional fee of £243.60 (incl VAT) will be required to Cambium Sustainable Limited for your final accreditation (payment details provided during the course)

Accreditation & Final Assessment

This course is accredited by the AIM Qualifications & Assessment Group, which is approved by the Forest School Association. Upon successful completion, you will receive your Level 3 Forest School Leader certification.

However, please note that there is an additional fee to be paid directly to Cambium Sustainable Limited for your final accreditation.

Join Us and Lead the Change!

Are you ready to take your career to the next level? Become a Forest School Leader and transform the way children learn and grow in the natural world.

Apply Now

Next course starts 8 January 2027
For more details or to apply, please visit:
surreyhillsforestschool.co.uk/training

Forest School Leader Level 3 Training Course

Step-by-Step Breakdown of the Training Process

Step 1 – Face-to-Face Guided Learning (5 days)

The first part of your journey is a series of five face-to-face training days, where you'll learn the theory and practice behind delivering Forest School sessions. During these days, we'll cover:

- Forest School principles
- Pedagogy and child-centered learning in nature
- Planning for successful Forest School sessions
- Practical skills like tool use, shelter building, and fire lighting

These sessions will mix theory with hands-on outdoor learning to build your confidence in leading sessions.

Step 2 – Delivering Forest School Sessions (6 x 2-hour sessions)

After your initial five days of training, you'll set up and deliver six Forest School sessions at your own site. These sessions will form part of your portfolio, and you will get hands-on experience working with a group.

Please note that the six sessions you deliver should focus on the aspects of the Forest School curriculum that you can safely manage with your group, excluding tool use or fire lighting for safety reasons.

Step 3 – Portfolio of Evidence

Throughout the course, you will be required to create a Portfolio of Evidence. This will showcase your experiences and demonstrate your learning throughout the course. It will include:

- Your completed Forest School Handbook
- A set of Practical Skills Forms for assessment
- Evidence from the six Forest School sessions you've delivered This portfolio is an essential part of your qualification and must be completed within 9 months of starting the course.

Step 4 – Practical Assessment Days

Once your portfolio is complete, you will return for your practical assessment. During this week, you'll be required to:

- Demonstrate your practical skills (e.g., safe tool use, fire lighting)
- Present your completed Forest School Handbook
- Showcase the learning outcomes of your six Forest School sessions
- Provide your Outdoor / Forest School First Aid Certificate and DBS certificate

The assessment ensures that you have met all the learning outcomes of the course and are ready to run your own Forest School programme.

Step 5 – Outdoor First Aid Training

Before completing your qualification, you will need to undertake an Outdoor First Aid course, which is specifically designed for working with children in an outdoor setting. This is a 16-hour course (over two days) and will cover:

- Basic first aid techniques
- Outdoor incident management
- Paediatric care (for children aged 1 and above)
- Injury and illness prevention in outdoor environments

This certification is valid for three years, and Surrey Hills Forest School recommends booking this course with an approved provider. While we don't provide the training, we can recommend trusted providers to ensure you meet this requirement.