



**Modular Forest School training
(Levels 1–3 combined)
OCN accredited training**



Forest School modular training: starting April 17

Venue: [Bonaly Scout Centre](#), South Edinburgh

To book: download form and send to forestschool@bigworldadventures.org, or Aline Hill, 12 Charles Way South, Fife, Limekilns, KY11 3JW

To make enquiries: please email forestschool@bigworldadventures.org

Course leader: Aline Hill

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About Forest School

Forest School is an empowering and creative approach to learning and development, for children, young people and adults, which maximises the benefits of learning in the outdoors. It offers participants the opportunity, over repeated visits, to engage with the rich natural diversity of our wild environments to help build confidence, curiosity, resilience, compassion, care and healthy bodies and minds.

Forest School's positive effects on learners, staff and their wider community are increasingly recognised by HMIE, LTS and a growing number of Scottish learning professionals as an ideal vehicle for delivering our Curriculum for Excellence and putting the learner at the heart of their learning experience. See <http://owlsotland.org/local-options/forest-schools/> and www.forestschoollassociation.org.

About BigWorld and Forest School Training Company training

Aline Hill (BigWorld) is a passionate Forest School practitioner of twelve years' experience. She has been delivering highly regarded Forest School training in Scotland for more than eight years in partnership with the Forest School Training Company and is currently Scotland's most experienced trainer. She works regularly with Forestry Commission Scotland, East Lothian Council, Edinburgh Council, Borders Forest Trust and South Lanarkshire councils, amongst others. Following a recent staff buy out, the Forest School Training Company assets are now jointly owned and managed by Mike Brady (South Lanarkshire), Aline Hill (BigWorld, Fife) and Louise Ambrose (Norfolk).

Aline's areas of particular Forest School expertise are early years, primary school and adults with health and well being issues. She also holds 60 credits at M(Ed) distinction level, Children in the Outdoors 0-5.

She currently works with an experienced team of co-leaders, assistants and developing tutors to deliver training. All have long term experience of Forest School delivery and areas of specialist knowledge. For more information see www.forestschoolltraining.co.uk.



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Total course costs (no VAT is applicable)

	If paying in 1 installment¹	Out of area assessment fees
Level 3	Total cost £950	0.45 /mile for candidates outside 15-mile radius of the venue or a 30-mile radius of Limekilns (KY11 3JW). Discretionary charge for travel time above 1.5 hrs round trip @ £25/hour.
Level 2/3 top up	Total cost £600	0.45 /mile for candidates outside 15-mile radius of the venue or a 30-mile radius of Limekilns (KY11 3JW). Discretionary charge for travel time above 1.5 hrs round trip @ £25/hour.
Level 2	Total cost £550	
Level 1	Total cost £350	
Awareness only – no certification	Total cost £150	



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Course dates

Note:

- students must attend all the modules indicated in grey for their level;
- course includes two Saturdays in order to minimise the need for supply cover;
- required contact time cannot be modified regardless of existing experience and qualifications because course elements and schedule is so interlinked.

	Dates	Awareness	Level 1	Level 2 (assistant)	Level 2/3 top up (leader)	Level 3 (leader)
Mod 1	20 & 21 April 17 (Thurs, Fri) 10 am–4 pm	√	√	√		√
Mod2	4 & 5 May 17 (Thurs, Fri) 10 am–4 pm			√		√
Mod 3 + Mod 4, day 1	15, 16 & 17 June 17 (Thurs, Fri, Sat) 9.45 am–4.30 pm				√	√
Mod 4, day 2 + Mod 5	31 Aug , 1 & 2 Sep 17 (Thurs, Fri, Sat) 9.45 am–4.30 pm				√	√
Mod 6	Delivery assessment: arranged individually Oct 17–Jun 18 (approx 2.5 hrs)				√	√

Estimated course commitment

	Taught hours	Self-study hours	Total hours
Level 3	80	110	190
Level 2/3 top up	48	80	128
Level 2	32	30	62
Level 1	16	14	30



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Choosing which level of training

Students can choose the level of training they wish to complete, provided they meet the entry requirements, which are at the end of this document.

<p>Awareness (Module 1)</p> <p>A 2-day introduction to Forest School combining lots of outdoor experience with some indoor information and theory sessions.</p>	<p>We cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest school ethos and history, • general health & safety, • basic identification skills, • an introduction to play and its links to Forest School.
<p><i>A certificate of attendance is available on request from BigWorld.</i></p>	<p>No further work is needed.</p>

<p>Level 1 training (Module 1)</p> <p>A 2-day, Open Colleges Network-accredited introduction to Forest School combining lots of outdoor experience with some indoor information and theory sessions.</p>	<p>We cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest school ethos and history, • general health & safety, • basic identification skills, • an introduction to play and its links to Forest School. • (ie same as Awareness above)
<p>Students will need to find a qualified Forest School leader and organize to join them for a session. BigWorld will try to provide local contacts and introductions where possible but cannot guarantee a session visit. This is best organized in advance by students.</p>	<p>Total Level 1 coursework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete a short workbook, • visit a FS session being run by a qualified leader, • and write up their observations



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<p>Level 2 Assistant training</p> <p>(Modules 1 + 2)</p> <p>If you want to develop as an assistant at Forest School level 2 training is for you. It requires both modules 1 & 2 to be completed.</p> <p>For module 2, the focus remains on outdoor experience and reflection, with some theory and discussion sessions.</p>	<p>We cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• self esteem and confidence at Forest School,• behaviour and Forest School• Introduction to Risk Assessment and Risk benefit assessment• practical skills and ideas• shelter• tool use and fire• woodland ecology• and sustainable use of woodland sites.
<p>Important info:</p> <p>students will need to find a qualified Forest School leader and organize to assist them for 3 consecutive sessions. Bigworld will try to provide local contacts and introductions where needed but cannot guarantee a session visit. This is best organized in advance by students.</p>	<p>Total level 2 coursework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete a workbook• assist on 3 consecutive sessions of Forest School run by a level 3 qualified FS leader• and write up your observations

<p>Level 3 Forest School Leader (Modules 1 to 6)</p> <p>This is the nationally recognised level of training required if you want to lead at Forest School. For this level of training all 6 modules will need to be completed.</p> <p>Modules 3 + 4 comprise two 2-day sessions during which you continue to balance practical work and reflection, with sessions on theory and verbal assessment options.</p>	<p>In Modules 3 + 4 we cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning theories • Neural development & emotional intelligence • More practical skills, tools and fires • Woodland ecology and management in more depth and from a leader’s perspective. Planning Forest School, all aspects of group management including risk–benefit, and running and evaluating Forest School programmes
<p>Practical skills assessment (Mod 5)</p> <p>This takes place over a 2-day block. Students are assessed on their competence with knots, safe use and teaching of tools and fire-craft, and basic campfire cooking.</p>	<p>Delivery assessments (Mod 6)</p> <p>An assessor visits the student as they run the fourth or fifth of session or their 6-session practice block.</p>
<p>Important info:</p> <p>Students will need to run a 6-session block of Forest School sessions with a group of learners. They need to find a venue, learner group and at least one other competent adult. Students need to ensure that they are insured and disclosed, and that there is 2-day first aid in the outdoor first aid cover in place for their sessions. Bigworld will try to provide local contacts and introductions where needed for independent candidates but cannot guarantee students will be able to find a group to work with. Best organized in advance by students.</p>	<p>Total Level 3 coursework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three workbooks (after modules 2 & 4 and after completing delivery assessment). • Pass practical skills assessment • Run 6-session practice block with group of learners • Pass delivery assessment • Compile all of the above into a final portfolio of evidence and submit for marking and moderation.



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<p>Level 2/3 Top Up</p> <p>For recently qualified Forest School assistants who want to become leaders.</p> <p>You'll complete modules 3, 4, 5 & 6 as above (6 days).</p>	<p>Total top-up coursework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will already have done the first workbook. If you have completed it to a Level 3 standard you will only have two workbooks to complete, plus the rest of the requirements listed above in total Level 3 coursework.
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Course entry requirements	
<p>Level 3 and Level 2/3 Top Up candidates will:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be over 21 years of age Be a qualified teacher, play worker, youth worker or support worker (to level 2 or equivalent) OR compile a portfolio of at least 2 years of experience of working with their chosen client group in a leadership capacity. Hold a current enhanced CRB disclosure/evidence of clean PVG scheme check at time of completing Module 6. Hold a current First Aid qualification suitable for working outdoors with chosen client at the time of completing Module 6
<p>Level 2 candidates will:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> usually be over 18 years of age. have some experience and/or qualifications in working with their chosen client group. Hold a current enhanced CRB disclosure or evidence of clear PVG scheme check at time of assisting in 3 sessions of a programme run by a Level 3 qualified FS practitioner.
<p>Level 1 candidates will:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be over 16 years of age. be interested in working with children/vulnerable adults.