

BUSHCRAFT SKILLS FOR OUTDOOR PRACTITIONERS

This 3 day Introductory Bushcraft course of practical skills and activities will also include the training syllabus for the Institute for Outdoor Learning's (IOL) "Bushcraft Competency Certificate", for which George is an approved IOL Trainer and Assessor. This has been a very popular course in recent years and is suitable as professional development for a wide range of outdoor practitioners, or simply for personal interest. It is a very practical course, focusing on the development of personal skills and current good Bushcraft practice. Participants can choose to endorse the training, if they wish, by completing a one day assessment at a later date, after a period of consolidation and Log Book completion. The cost for an assessment is not included in the training fee. The course will cover the IOL syllabus (below), plus additional areas: emergency survival procedure, useful knots in Bushcraft and ideas for Bushcraft games and activities. In addition all participants will receive a free: "Mora 511" carbon steel knife; "Light my Fire" Scout fire-steel; tin and materials to make your own charred cloth tinder; materials for making a drawstring leather pouch, to carry your own flint and steel fire lighting kit; comprehensive course notes, BCC Log Book and personal course feedback for those wanting to move to Assessment at a later date.

Course Outline:

- Bushcraft Tools (knife & saw) – design, selection, safe use, maintenance.
- Tool use in cutting, splitting and carving – for making such things as wedges, feather sticks, pegs, safe pot hangers.
- Bushcraft and the Law with special emphasis on "Knife Law"
- Fire ignition sources – flint & steel with charred cloth, fire steels, matches, chemical, electrical, solar, compression, – advantages and disadvantages of different methods.
- Types of natural tinders – inner and outer bark, seed heads, fungi, dried grass, bracken, tree resin – how these are prepared for safe use and the environmental considerations connected to these types of tinders.
- Types of man-made tinders – waxed paper, candle wax, gel, rubber, fire-lighters, hexamine blocks- how these are prepared for safe use and the environmental considerations connected to these types of tinders.
- Fire - siting and the environmental considerations, construction and maintenance using a suitable fire lay, safe use and disposal.
- Fire by friction using bow/drill set – knowledge of suitable woods and the component parts of the set, use of the set to produce fire and ignite kindling. Plus group bow drill arrangements.
- Water – finding, collecting, filtering and purification.
- Improvised natural shelters – vital use in protection, siting and safe construction with regard to possible environmental damage, water proofing and disposal.
- Basic Tree I.D - with reference to potential bow drill properties, burning qualities and other Bushcraft uses.
- Basic natural navigation.
- Natural cordage preparation and production.
- Leave No Trace/ Sustainable use of resources/ General Safety and Hygiene.

Recent course feedback:

"Fantastic course. I learnt so much. George was very helpful, patient, knowledgeable and friendly."

"Great course. Really wanted to keep going and learn even more."

"A lot packed in. Professional, personal learning with a very knowledgeable and patient instructor. Best course I have done in a long time."

"Thank you so much for a brilliant three days. I now have a much better understanding of how much I have to learn and feel so much more confident with what I did know."

"Excellent course! Continuously fascinating and engaging. Loved the relaxed manner of delivery. His amazing depth of knowledge and experience was clear. Thank you, I feel further inspired to continue to 'play' outside!"

"Fantastic course, even for experienced people. Huge range of skills within the timescale – evening tuition a much appreciated part. Thank you for a lovely and thorough few days."

Date: 27th – 29th March 2017

Venue: The Woodland Play Centre, Crowcombe, Somerset.

Course cost: £295. IOL Members £275.

The course leader is George Yeomans, a qualified Outdoor Education Teacher, Bushcraft Instructor and Forest School Leader.

For more information or to book a place contact

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