

Shelter Building – Program Overview

K | Gr. 1 - Gr. 12 |

Program Description

A Surrey Nature Centre Guide will introduce your students to an area of our urban forest where they'll use provided tools and techniques to create a shelter. After learning the basics, students will work in groups to overcome a building challenge based on their grade level. The program ends with a student-led presentation of the shelter creations to witness the design and rationale behind each structure.

Considerations

- This program is completely outdoors, rain or shine, so please dress for the weather.
- For your safety in the event of extreme weather conditions, this program will be adapted for an open area or rescheduled to another day.
- Public washrooms are available on-site - arrive early to make use of these facilities before the program begins.
- All vehicles parking in our lot will need to register their license plates inside the Nature Centre before the program.
- Please have students in 5-6 groups (groups of 4 or 5) prior to the program! They will work in these groups to build their shelters.

Curriculum Focus Areas

ADST Curricular Links

- Explore and select the use of familiar tools, such as ropes, tarps, and clamps, as well as natural "tools" to create an effective shelter.
- Design a shelter that responds to the needs of the user and considers sustainability and safety.
- Survey an outdoor space to identify features that support building an effective shelter.
- Consider the users (wildlife, humans) of an outdoor space and their sheltering needs to survive there.

Science Curricular Links

- Make observations about living and non-living things in the local environment.
- Learn about the features and behaviours of animals that help them survive in their environment.
- Communicate ideas, findings, and solutions to problems through scientific language and appropriate technologies.

Vocabulary

Adaptations – A special physical or behavioural skill which helps an animal to survive and thrive.

Habitat – The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.

Shelter – A place that covers or protects a creature from bad weather or danger.

Survey – To examine an area and its features to construct a map, plan, or description.

Wildlife – Living things, like mammals, birds, and fishes that are neither human nor domesticated.

Dressing For the Weather

Please ensure you are checking the forecast in the days prior to your program and communicating with your students to ensure they are prepared.

Clothing Recommendations

We require students to wear **sturdy, closed-toe footwear** for all outdoor programs. During the winter and during rain, footwear should be waterproof.

We recommend that students wear **layers** in all weather.

For colder programs, wool is the best base layer (closest to skin) – it stays warm even if it gets wet! Students should also wear an insulating layer, and wear a water-resistant outer layer, gloves, and a hat or toque. We have some rain ponchos on site, should a student need to borrow one.

For warmer programs, students should still bring a light jacket, or sweater, as temperatures can be significantly lower in the forest. Hats are recommended.