

Shelter Building – Program Overview

K | Gr. 1 - Gr. 5 |

Program Description

Join a Nature Centre Guide as they introduce your students to a treed area of our urban forest where they will use provided tools and instructed techniques to create a wilderness shelter. After learning the basics, students will be divided into small groups to overcome a challenge based on their grade level. The program ends with an informal presentation where we'll visit each shelter creation 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.

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.
- Map an outdoor space to identify features that support building an effective shelter.
- Consider the users (wildlife) 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 skill which helps an animal to survive and thrive. They can be physical or behavioural.

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

Map – A drawing of a space showing physical features, playgrounds, roads, forests, and rivers.

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

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