

SCOUTING IRELAND ADVENTURE SKILLS: BACKWOODS SESSION GUIDE



Backwoods Adventure
Skills Stage 1
5x session plans



SFNI Programme Lead





Introduction

The sessions guides created by the SFNI Programme Lead have been designed to help support delivery of SI Adventure Skills Stages 1-4 in Backwoods, with each session guide pitched at a particular Section or level.

This guide contains a total of **five sessions** and provide activities that are intended to encourage and promote developing the necessary skills and knowledge linked to completion of each of the skills levels.

Sessions have been designed to be delivered within the 'den'; **four** of these can be completed within an indoor setting with an option for outdoor learning, if available. The **fifth** session requires to be delivered outdoors as part of a Backwoods Adventure to enable youth members to apply the skills and knowledge necessary to complete the skills level.

Completing the Backwoods Adventure Skill session

Before beginning delivery of the Backwoods Adventure Skill session, it is important to do a few things:

Firstly, read through the session plans and become comfortable with the activities described and the resources required. You may find that through experience that a different approach or activity may be better suited to deliver this training, so please adapt the session for what works best for you and the group.

Secondly, take time to plan delivery with the group, utilize **Plan**, **Do**, **Review**, ensuring the group have been engaged and explored the Backwoods Adventure Skill and chosen to take part and shape their experiences across this learning journey.

Finally, ensure that you as the facilitator are competent, comfortable, and capable of delivering this training. Ensure that any required **Risk Assessments** have been complete regarding these activities.

The table below highlights the practical skills that Scouters will be required to demonstrate and the knowledge that a Scouter is required to be confident and able to deliver.

	Practical Skills- Scouters should be able to demonstrate:	Knowledge-Scouters need to know:					
Stage 1	Practical Skills- Scouters should be able to demonstrate: How to use a range of survival kit items. How to treat simple wounds and injury. How to tie a range of knots for shelter building. How to erect emergency and simple shelters. How to set and light a fire	Knowledge- Scouters need to know: What Backwoods living relates to and entails Correct clothes and kit to wear/ use across Backwoods Adventures. Explain the 'fire triangle' and how to keep safe around fire. Understand the different materials available to build shelters.					
	How to complete 'basic' cooking tasks.	Food prep and storage in a camp setting					

Using the Session Plans

The session plan has been developed to be delivered at a particular **Section/ ability level**.

Each session usually begins with an energizer activity, loosely linked to the learning activity, and contains an introduction, learning activity(s) and a close/ reflection element.

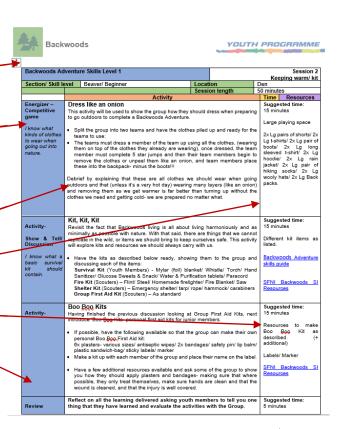
In the first column you will also find the **Adventure Skill objective** that the activity relates to.

A **description** of an activity to complete, related to the title and prompts on how to undertake the activity are provided.

A **suggested timing** has been included, for guidance only. It may be beneficial to slow down and stretch out activities dependent on your group.

A **resource column** includes a list of equipment and/ or external links to additional resources to assist in the delivery of the activity.

The last element of the session plan is a **review activity** which should be completed as part of quality assurance and recording.









Beaver/ Beginner Location Den	Backwoods Ad	Backwoods Adventure Skills Stage 1				Session 1 Introduction			
Backwoods Memory Game This activity Backwoods Memory Game This activity introduces some of the objects/ equipment associated with Backwoods living and adventures.	Section/ Skill le	vel	Beaver/ Beginner	Locat	ion	D		<u>ouuotioii</u>	
Backwoods Memory Game This activity introduces some of the objects/ equipment associated with Backwoods living and adventures. Collect a range of objects (x2) associated with outdoors and Backwoods activities e.g., twig, paracord, carabiner, ferro rod, fern leaf, tree leaf, personal first aid kit, hat etc. Spread these over two trays and split the group into two. Give each group 60 seconds to study their tray, cover and remove an item and see if the group can identify what is missing. Run a couple of times.			·	Sessi	on length	4	5 minutes		
Introduction activity - introduces some of the objects/ equipment associated with Backwoods living and adventures. Cellect a range of objects (x2) associated with outdoors and Backwoods activities e.g., twig, paracord, carabiner, ferro rod, fern leaf, tree leaf, personal first ald kif, hat etc. Spread these over two trays and split the group into two. Give each group 60 seconds to study their tray, cover and remove an item and see if the group can identify what is missing. Run a couple of times. What do we mean by Backwoods Living & Backwoods Skills?			Activity					sources	
This session will be used to introduce and explore what is meant by Backwoods living and Backwoods skills activities. 1 Using Appendix 1 – Backwoods Scene 1, ask the group to look at the scene and tell you what they see – A city scape with forest area to the fore, hills behind the building and mountains to the back. Next explain that when talking about 'Backwoods' it describes somewhere away from towns and cities, away from the hustle and bustle of cars, buses, shops, and homes- away from our everyday daily lives and experiences. Using Appendix 1 - Backwoods Scene 2, ask the group to describe what they see - A forest/ woodland area, paths by a river, with a shelter and fire set up and hammock to the fore. Explain that by learning a range of Backwoods skills, you can visit these types of places and live in comfort and harmony with the nature all around us. 'As a member of the Scout organization, this is a value we practice, learning how nature can support us and in turn how we have a minimum impact on nature.' Next show Appendix 1 - Backwoods Scene 3, explain that bother areas such as wooded foothils and lowlands can be considered Backwoods area and that completing Adventure Skills Level 1 in Backwoods will teach skills that will help us when we complete Backwoods adventures and activities. To finish, talk about some of the things the group will be learning about across the next few weeks- Clothes to wear when out in nature/ Survival kits/ Building shelters/ Fire safety/ Preparing food for fire cooking and much more. I have never This activity will get the group moving again after the discussion activity and enable Scouters to assess the experience youth members have had in Backwoods type activities. I have neverbeen on a walk through a hill area. I have neverbeen on a walk through a hill area. I have neverbeen on a walk through a forest. I have neverbeen on a walk through a forest. I have neverbeen on a walk through a forest. I have neverbeen on a walk through a forest. I h		 This activity introduces some of the objects/ equipment associated with Backwoods living and adventures. Collect a range of objects (x2) associated with outdoors and Backwoods activities e.g., twig, paracord, carabiner, ferro rod, fern leaf, tree leaf, personal first aid kit, hat etc. Spread these over two trays and split the group into two. Give each group 60 seconds to study their tray, cover and remove an item and 						me: ackwoods	
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This activity will get the group moving again after the discussion activity and enable Scouters to assess the experience youth members have had in Backwoods type activities. • Sit the group in a circle and tell them you will say some statements, if they have done what the statement asks, they stand, if not they remain seated. Take a moment to ask those standing about the statement and their experience: 1. I have neverbeen on a walk through a hill area. 2. I have neverbeen on a walk through a forest. 3. I have neverbuilt a shelter at home or in the woods. 4. I have nevermade myself a sandwich. 5. I have nevertoasted marshmallows on a fire 6. I have neverpicked a wildflower to give to someone.	Discussion	 and tell you what they see – A city scape with forest area to the fore, hills behind the building and mountains to the back. Next explain that when talking about 'Backwoods' it describes somewhere away from towns and cities, away from the hustle and bustle of cars, buses, shops, and homes- away from our everyday daily lives and experiences. Using Appendix 1- Backwoods Scene 2, ask the group to describe what they see- A forest/ woodland area, paths by a river, with a shelter and fire set up and hammock to the fore. Explain that by learning a range of Backwoods skills, you can visit these types of places and live in comfort and harmony with the nature all around us. 'As a member of the Scout organization, this is a value we practice, learning how nature can support us and in turn how we have a minimum impact on nature.' Next show Appendix 1 – Backwoods Scene 3, explain that other areas such as wooded foothills and lowlands can be considered Backwoods areas and that completing Adventure Skills Level 1 in Backwoods will teach skills that will help us when we complete Backwoods adventures and activities. To finish, talk about some of the things the group will be learning about across 				es, syd saw, hat p s	Backwoods Scene 1, 2 & 3 Backwoods Adventure skills guide SFNI Backwoods SI		
Reflect on all the learning delivered asking youth members to tell you one Suggested time		This enable type Si do m	activity will get the group moving again after ble Scouters to assess the experience youth mem activities. It the group in a circle and tell them you will say sone what the statement asks, they stand, if not oment to ask those standing about the statement. I have neverbeen on a walk through a law of the statement of the sta	bers hand they real tand the sorest. In the words to some	ve had in Backwood tements, if they hav main seated. Take eir experience: ods.	ls e a	10 minutes Large playing I have 'Backwoods' statements.	ı Space never	
Review thing that they have learned and evaluate the activities with the Group. 5 minutes	Review					е		me:	







Backwoods Adventure Skills Stage 1 Session Keeping warm/							
Section/ Skill le	Section/ Skill level Beaver/ Beginner Location						
	Session length						
	Activity	Time Resources					
Energizer – Competitive game I know what kinds of clothes to wear when going out into nature.	 Dress like an onion This activity will be used to show the group how they sto go outdoors to complete a Backwoods Adventure. Split the group into two teams and have the clother column piled up and ready for the teams to use. The teams must dress a group member up using a contop of the clothes they already are wearing), once must complete 5 star jumps and then their team must clothes or unpeel them like an onion, with team membackpack- minus the boots!!! Debrief by explaining that these are all clothes we outdoors and that (unless it's a very hot day) wearing and removing them as we get warmer is far better clothes we need and getting cold- we are prepared not considered. 	Large playing space rce 2x Lg pairs of shorts/ 2x Lg t-shirts/ 2x Lg pair o boots/ 2x Lg long sleeved t-shirt/ 2x Lg hoodie/ 2x Lg rair jacket/ 2x Lg pair o hiking socks/ 2x Lg wooly hats/ 2x Lg Back packs.					
Activity- Show & Tell/ Discussion I know what a basic survival kit should contain.	Kit, Kit, Kit Revisit that Backwoods Adventures are all about minimally as possible with nature. With that said, the replicate in the wild, or items we should bring to keep will explore kits and resources we should always care • Have the kits as described below ready, show discussing each of the items: Survival Kit (Youth Members) - Mylar (foil) bla Sanitizer/ Glucose Sweets & Snack/ Water & Purit Fire Kit (Scouters) - Flint/ Steel/ Homemade firelic Shelter Kit (Scouters) - Emergency shelter/ tarp/ Group First Aid Kit (Scouters) - As standard	Different kit items as listed. Backwoods Adventure skills guide SFNI Backwoods S					
Activity- Practical I know what a basic survival kit should contain.	 Boo Boo Kits Having finished the previous discussion looking at introduce 'Boo Boo' Kits- personal first aid kits for jun If possible, have the following available so that the personal Boo Boo First Aid kit: 6x plasters- various sizes/ antiseptic wipes/ 2x bate plastic sandwich-bag/ sticky labels/ marker Make a kit up with each member of the group and put the productional resources available and ask the outley should apply plasters and bandages- advising only treat themselves, make sure hands are clustered thoroughly cleaned, and that the injury is well covered. 	Resources to make Boo Boo Kit as described. (fadditional) Labels/ Marker SFNI Backwoods September					
Review	Reflect on all the learning delivered asking yout thing that they have learned and evaluate the action		Suggested time: 5 minutes				







Backwoods Ad	Session 3 Fire Safety				
Section/ Skill le	Section/ Skill level Beaver/ Beginner Location [Den File Salety	
	Dearen Deginner		on length	50 minutes	
	Activity			Time Resources	
Energizer – Challenge	Chair Laser Challenge This activity will take a bit of preparation, but it will introduce 'fire safety' to the			Suggested time: 15 minutes	
Chanenge	 To prepare- set up a total of 16 chairs (8 on each one another and string rope between opposite 	s			
	 about 2ft heigh from the ground. The challenge is for all the group to get from one crawling under the rope (between the chairs) w 				
	 point. Time the group to see how quickly they succees second penalty for every touch of the rope. 				
	Explain that this activity will teach the group what to fire emergency. Fires create smoke, and smoke c find ourselves in such a scenario. If we drop to the with smoke, it should make escaping a little easier.	an make i	t difficult for us if w	e	
Introduction Activity-	Fire & Scouting Explain that using fire to keep us warm, help us co something that Scouts have learned about since S	Suggested time: 5 minutes			
Quick Discussion	Fire is an extremely useful tool, but it is something must always be respected. We must know how, who				
	how to behave and act safely around them. At level 1 we will learn about 'the fire triangle' and	now we ke	ep safe around fire		
Activity- Craft	The Fire Triangle This activity will instruct the group about the compo	Suggested time: 15 minutes			
	 Split the group into three and give each of them Ask each group to decorate each of the poles w 			3 good sizes sticks/ poles	
	 'heat' and one 'air' With each now decorated, ask the group to place them so that they form a pyramid- you may need to help with this, setting the pyramid on soft/ outside ground or carpet will be beneficial as opposed a hard wood floor. 				
	 Use the pyramids to explain that for fire to thrive sticks etc./ HEAT- a flame from a match/ or spanning an AIR source- once these three combine you have 				
	 Next ask a group to remove their stick represent collapse, and the fire is extinguished-repeat for remaining pyramids and explain that by removing can put fire out-ask the group to name items 	e			
Activity- Discussion	 Keeping safe To finish the session, ask the group to tell you w keep you safe around fire: 				
I know how to behave safely around fires.	vontilated and clour epaces, never ran, or jump through a me, never teach me with				
	• Finally ask the group to tell you what to do if a fire emergency occurs: Who do they tell? - Scouter in first instance. Who do they call for help? – 999 Emergency services: Fire brigade. What would they say? – Name/ location etc.				
	Reflect on all the learning delivered asking you			e Suggested time:	
Review	thing that they have learned and evaluate the a			5 minutes	







Backwoods Adventure Skills Stage 1				Session 4 Building Shelter			
Section/ Skill le	vel Beaver/ Beginner	Locat	Location D		Den/ Backwoods site		
	Session length			50 minute			
Introduction/ Energizer – Challenge	Activity Adventure Shelter Challenge This activity will introduce 'shelters' to the group an to set up their own shelters using tarp and rope. • Split the group into two teams and provide the	15 minu	Time Resources Suggested time: 15 minutes Large playing space brushed and cleaned.				
simple shelter.	 each. The challenge is for the teams to get the emergency shelter out of its bag and set it up as quickly as possible, get everyone inside and then exit and return the shelter into its bag and close it up. The fastest team wins. Use this activity to introduce to the group that this session will explore building shelters. 						
Activity-	Shelter building - Den Setting up shelters to keep us warm and dry is an i are beginners and more likely 'junior' youth memb have rope with carabiners attached/ set up in li	e 30 minu o Chairs/	Wall hooks/				
Indoors I can build a simple shelter.	show the group how to make simple 'A frame' and 'Ridgeline A frame' shelters using the paracord/ rope and tarp and ask them to try. Shelter building - Outdoors Setting up shelters to keep us warm and dry is an important skill to learn, as these are beginners and more likely 'junior' youth members, it may be a suggestion to have rope with carabiners attached/ set up in lieu of knots, just to make the activities more accessible and to fire imagination. If setting up tarp shelters outdoors, use tree trunks to hand the paracord/ rope from and show the group how to make simple 'A frame' and 'Ridgeline A frame'				rd/ Rope/ ners/ Tarp oods Adventure uide Backwoods SI ces		
Alternative Activity- Practical Outdoors I can build a simple shelter.					sted time: utes pods area with Paracord/ Rope/ ners/ Tarp Backwoods SI ces sted time:		
Activity- Discussion							
Review	Reflect on all the learning delivered asking youth members to tell you one thing that they have learned and evaluate the activities with the Group.				sted time: es		







Backwoods Adventure Skills Stage 1						Session 5
				Backwoods Adventure Outdoor Backwoods site		
Section/ Skill le					s necessary	
	Activity					Time Resources
	To complete Skills Stage 1 in Backwoods Adventure Skills, the group must partake				е	Suggested time:
Preparation	in at least two Backwoods activities as well as learn about preparing food to cook and been shown how to use any associated hand-tools safely. Before completing this session, discuss with the group the upcoming adventure and make sure they know: Clothing to wear/ bring along with what should both be in their own personal					N/a
I know what kinds of clothes to wear when going out into nature.						Boo Boo and Survival kits/ Maps Fire/ Cooking kit/ equipment
I know what a basic survival kit should contain.	to • En	raise help if required. sure all Risk assessments have been perfo tivities is collected. entify all other kits and equipment that need to be	ormed a	nd that consent fo		Tarp/ Rope/ Carabiners Risk Assessments & Consent forms
Activity- Practical	How what run th	pleting a Backwoods Adventure you run Backwoods activities will be dependent follows is only a suggestion, however, please er he activity that <i>fire safety, shelter building, foo</i> he safely are all referenced.	nsure tha	at whichever way yo	u	Suggested time: N/a Backwoods Adventure skills guide
I know how to behave safely around fires.	me Se the	a arrival, identify a clear space to set up a fire the eters clearance around the radius of the fire and the fire on a fire blanket, using an 8" clay/ sand efire, building on top of this.	e. of	Kit/ equipment as required to complete the activity.		
I know how to prepare food for cooking. I know how to	 Discuss fire safety and then ask the group to find dry kindling (twigs) and grass to help you start the fire. It may be a suggestion to bring dried 'sticks/logs' with you for the fire- show the group how you would set up a 'teepee' fire and use the collected kindling to start the fire. 				е	Fire blankets (x2) Water source Prepared food stuff/ extra-long skewers
use hand tools safely.	Next, build several shelters, if there are sufficient natural materials, use these to build a basic 'Lean-to' or 'Arrowhead' shelter. If not use tarp and rope to create 'A-frame/ Ridge Line' shelters.			Tarp/ Rope/ Sisal/ Paracord/ Carabiners		
participated in at least two Backwoods activities.	soi de usi	imp cooking- prepare ready cooked meats sume sliced onion. Clear an area and use this monstrate how to prepare food for cooking, skeing extra-long skewers- make sure these have be skewers burning and catching alite.	along wewer the	vith container lids t cooked meat/ onio	o n	Group First Aid Kit SFNI Backwoods SI Resources
	• Sir	milarly, as above- use skewers to cook marshm	allows o	ver the flame.		
	 Using either a fire blanket or water source, demonstrate how to extinguish the fire safely and use a trench spade to cover the area with soil. Dismantle shelters and return Backwoods area to how it was found. Please ensure that for all tools/ equipment used across the activities, that you provide a demonstration on how these are correctly used- only Scouters should use tools at this stage as a point of safety. 				е	
Review	Reflect on all the learning delivered asking youth members to tell you one thing that they have learned and evaluate the activities with the Group.				е	Suggested time: N/a
	Complete all recording and monitoring of completion of Adventure Skills as performed by the group to achieve Skills Stage 1				s	







Appendix 1 -

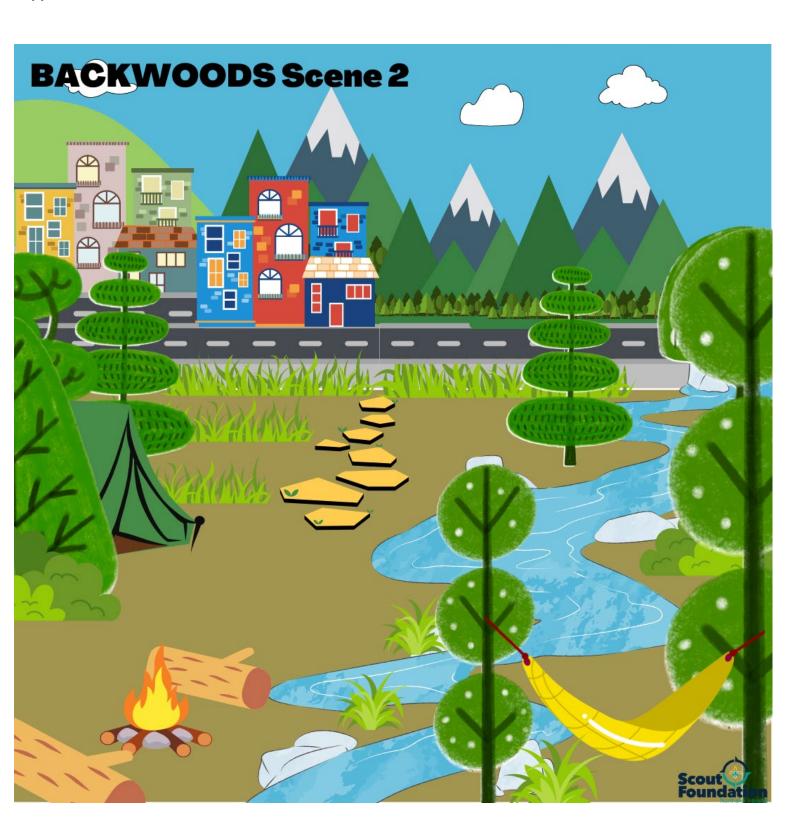








Appendix 1 -









Appendix 1 -



