

## SCOUTING IRELAND ADVENTURE SKILLS: BACKWOODS SESSION GUIDE



Backwoods Adventure Skills Stage 2 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 2	<ul> <li>How to set up and attend to a fire.</li> <li>What good food hygiene looks like in practice.</li> <li>How to cook on an open fire using minimal utensils.</li> <li>How to use tools and equipment safely.</li> <li>How to set and light a fire</li> <li>How to build shelters</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Knowledge of fire safety.</li> <li>How to craft cooking utensils.</li> <li>Explain the 'fire triangle' and how to keep safe around fire.</li> <li>Understand the different materials available to build shelters.</li> <li>Knots and setting Ridgelines and guidelines for shelters.</li> <li>Food prep and storage in a camp setting.</li> </ul>					

## **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.

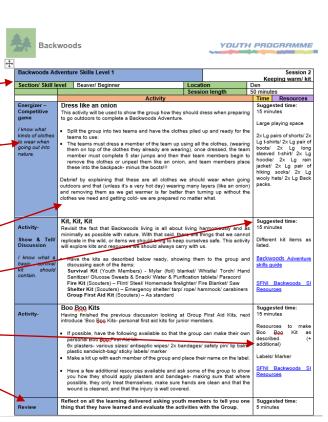
In the first column you will also find the **Adventure Skill objective** that the activity relates to.

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 complete as part of quality assurance and recording.









Backwoods A	Backwoods Adventure Skills Stage 2						
Section/ Skill	level	Cub/ Beginner		Locat	ion	Introduction/ Fi Den/ outside space	
		<u> </u>			on length	60 minutes	
			Activity			Time Resources	
Energizer – Memory	Fire, Ice A variation some fun	Suggested time: 10 minutes					
quiz	Split the the hear -lce free	Large playing space					
	<ul> <li>Each to backs and se</li> <li>The tea</li> </ul>						
Introduction activity-	This activ	vity should be used	to reflect on what is me at Stage 1 and explore the	eant by			
Discussion	<ul> <li>Revisit the act</li> </ul>	tivities and experienc	e term Backwoods and Baces that should have been ops or associated Back	delivere	d as part of Stage	1 skills guide	
	<ul><li>benefic</li><li>Next, e</li></ul>	cial for helping jog me explore the skills that		age 2 a	nd ask the group t	to	
		to beginfire	<u>g</u> g	> =	g 22 2.till	Suggested time:	
Activity-	At Stage	1, participants shoul	d have been introduced to			ng 10 minutes	
Practical/ Discussion	Reintro     session	oduce the <i>'fire triang</i> n plan and explain th	and thinking about how fire the', setting up the pyramic connection between <b>FU</b>	d structi	ire used in Stage		
I know how to set up a fireplace and	<ul> <li>Next for material</li> </ul>		all to extinguish fire. element of fires and ask dland areas could be used				
assist in fire lighting.	Tinder Kindlir	<b>r =</b> wood shavings, ro <b>ng =</b> small sticks and	otten wood, dried grass, lead I splinters with a thickness thes to logs no thicker than	up to pe	encil size.		
	<ul> <li>Explain help st</li> </ul>	n that each heading	relates to different materia fire and remembering this	ıls used	at different times t		
	• Use th	ie rhyme <i>"Match-sti</i> ts match-stick, pen	ick, pencil, thumb (x2) cil, thumb" to help the greath heading to demonstra	oup rem			
		g Fires – Biscuit		to tillo.		Suggested time:	
Activity- Practical/	This activ	rity should be pre-pre	pared with the materials/ e t up a fire and assist in ligh		nt listed. The activit	25 minutes	
Outside area	<ul> <li>In an o tinder,</li> </ul>	outdoor space have a and Vaseline/ cotton	n adequate number of bise wool available.	cuit tins		Resources	
I know how to set up a	listenin	ng to instruction.	ling the group about fire sa	•	•	Tinder/ Kindling/ Fu	
fireplace and assist in	spark- • Now, e	allow small groups to explain the fire triang	o try and create a spark for le again and tell the group	themse that we	elves. e will set a fire usin	ng Vaseline/ Cotton woo	
fire lighting.	fire to I	keep it burning using	erro rod and homemade fire kindling and the open air.			Biscuit Tins	
	handfu	Il of tinder in the bise	/aseline and cotton wool a cuit tin. Spark the ferro roo to set the kindling on the fi	l until th	e firelighter catche	es   Ferro Rods	
	<ul> <li>Tend to will choose</li> </ul>	o the fires accordingl oke the fire of 'air' an	y and then demonstrate ho d extinguish the fire.	w placir	ng the lid onto the ti	blanket/ First Aid kit	
Review			elivered asking youth men evaluate the activities wit			Suggested time: 5 minutes	
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Backwoods Ad	Ba	Session 2 Backwoods Cooking						
Section/ Skill le	vel C	Cub/ Beginner Location			Den/ outside space			
						70 minutes		
		Activi	ty	_	Tin			
Energizer – Memory quiz	Tin Foi This activ demonstr Placin some The ch materi	o 10 i	Suggested time: 10 minutes  Tinfoil and other crafting materials.					
		the hats on design and best team vity should reflect on the skills learn		on 1 and explore who	at Su	ggested time:		
Introduction activity-	is meant Preparat	by Backwoods cooking, detailing with the second second in this session requires a large	vhat will be learne ge camp/ key-hol	d across this session e fire to be prepare	n. 5 m d <u>Bac</u>	5 minutes  Backwoods Adventure		
Discussion	the final fork at th	ed to whilst the session is being re activity. You will also need to colle e end with a span between 6"-8" a g a clean kitchen	ect branches that		a <u> </u>	ls guide ggested time:		
Activity- Show & Tell/	This active to be mir	vity will encourage the group to the order of the order o	oors.		at 10 i	minutes		
Discussion	raw fo	gin cover things like basic kitchen bods and cooked meats/ dry foo ately in 'air-tight' containers and pa	ods/ fruit & veg	these are all store	d Res	Resources		
I know about food hygiene in the outdoors	<ul> <li>keep i</li> <li>Next e</li> <li>tell you</li> <li>e.g., h</li> <li>Explai</li> <li>and as</li> <li>Finally</li> </ul>	nsects from landing on the food— explain about the importance of ha u what they could use for doing thing and sanitizer/ clean wipes— have in the importance of washing foods to ke the group where they might find to explain the importance of ensuring of hot flame/ embers or boiling to	have these availa ving clean hands s if they don't hav these available to s like vegetables a water source to ng food is cooked	able to show.  and ask the group to the warm water & soat to show.  before cooking these to aid this.  I properly referencing	Tino o mat p e	der/ Kindling/ Fuel terials		
Activity-	Backwe	oods cooking vity will introduce the tenants of Ba				ggested time: minutes		
Show & Tell/ Discussion/ Prep activity.	Ask the you us	and utensils to assist in prep and one group 'Who has ever fried an ese to do this?'	egg?' and to tell	you <i>'What equipme</i> i	Res	NI Backwoods SI sources		
I can prepare and cook food	pan?'-	ask the group what you could use This should lead to a conver acles- e.g., Onions and Oranges t	sation about us	ing tinfoil and other	er Tint			
properly in backwoods conditions.	<ul> <li>Next show the group the tinfoil and explain that this is a resource that is very versatile when it comes to cooking- it can be used to wrap and steam/ roas vegetables, fish and meats and even fry an egg!!!</li> <li>Using the foil and a pre collected branch with a fork at one end, stretch and fold</li> </ul>							
	<ul><li>Using the foi a tinfo</li><li>In pair pan.</li></ul>	d deli	very.					
Activity-	Frying	`	ggested time:					
Practical/ Outside area I know how cook some food	Before cooking, discuss the fire position and fire safety, and have means to extinguish the fire available along with a burn and first aid kit. Reference hygiene and good practices before beginning the activity.					minutes described. NI Backwoods SI sources		
using tin foil instead of pots and pans.	<ul><li>Backw</li><li>Discardiscuss</li></ul>	d Oth	Other tinfoil cooking ideas link					
Davie		n all the learning delivered asking				gested time:		
Review	that they	have learned and evaluate the ac	tivities with the (	roup.	5 m	inutes		







Backwoods Ad	Isina tool	Session 3 ng tools- Blade safety					
Section/ Skill le				Den/ outside space			
	Cab Edginion		on length		60 minutes		
	Activity	Time	Resources				
Introduction activity-	There is no energizer for this session as there is a you and the group will need to pay full attention to	h Sugge	Suggested time: 5 minutes				
Discussion	Reflect on the previous sessions activities and lead of this session as being Backwoods and blades- twhen using any bladed piece of kit.		oods Adventure uide				
	To prepare, have several lollipop sticks, sandpap wood branches- willow or hazel (for example) available.	lable.	·				
A 41 11	Explain that as the group members progress acros Adventure Skills Stages they will learn how to u knives, axes, and saws- this session will be the be	se bladed	equipment such a	s			
Activity- Demonstration	Uh ohI think I've cut myself!	,		10 min	sted time:		
I know how to	<ul> <li>This activity will demonstrate actions to take if an i</li> <li>Mention Stage 1 Skills in treating injuries and a what it is they would do if someone was to cut the</li> </ul>	ask the gro hemselves	oup to explain to yo ::	u First A			
treat simple cuts and scratches in a hygienic way.	<ul> <li>Treat wound yourself if possible- clean your had pressure and plaster- cover and apply bandage if required.</li> <li>Complete the activity by asking a few of the ground in the property of the prope</li></ul>	if bleeding	continues- seek hei	banda	plasters, ges, and wipes.		
nygieme nay.	a wound, asking the others in the group to tell such an injury.			е			
Activity- Practical	Lollipop knife  This activity should be used to discuss safety techniques to use when a bladed tool is necessary  • 'The Blood Circle' - Bring the group into a sem	as part of	an activity.	er 20 min	sted time: utes  Backwoods SI		
I can use hand tools correctly.	stick. Ask the group to place their arm (holding in front of them and to step backwards until individual to make a 360 degree turn without tou the 'Blood circle' and when using any bladed cuse, to work in.	d Resou n S Large	space/ chairs				
	<ul> <li>Sit the group down in their spot- on chairs- a sandpaper. Tell them that the challenge is to u edge on the lollipop stick – fashioning a blade/ k Techniques you should teach are that stroke</li> </ul>	se the sar knife.	ndpaper to create a	n Sandp	aper		
	made away from the body and the position I that the lollipop stick, and sanding action is mad NEVER between an individual's legs- explainin along the inside of each thigh and cutting this is	d s					
	Work with the group to fashion a blade, if ability to try and shape a handle for their knife also.  Parliam (factbox atials)	/ is there,	individuals may wis		atad tima:		
Activity- Practical	Peeling 'feather sticks' This activity will further demonstrate safe technique bladed implement.	a 20 min					
I can use hand tools correctly.	<ul> <li>Hand each group member a soft wood brand vegetable peeler.</li> <li>Following the same technique as above-pulling</li> </ul>	Resou	Resources				
	demonstrate how to carve strips of bark from the a 'feather stick'.	e branch u	p to a point to creat	e Soft wo	ood branch able Peelers		
	<ul> <li>Work with the group to carve their feather stick at type of fire lighter that can be used as part of Ba</li> </ul>	, ,					
Review	Reflect on all the learning delivered asking yo thing that they have learned and evaluate the a	Suggested time: 5 minutes					







Backwoods Ad	ventu	ure Skills Stage 2				Session 4 Building Shelter
Section/ Skill le	vel	Beaver/ Beginner	Locat	ion	Den/ B	ackwoods site
		Boavery Boginner		on length	60 mini	
		Activity			Time	Resources
Energizer – Challenge	lot c	with the previous session, there is no energiz of ground to cover and both you and the group overy.		gested time: inutes		
	Ask do a To p tarp	ect on the previous sessions activities a appleted across Stage 1- with shelter building but the group to tell you 'Why they think building and in what ways does a shelter help during an orepare for the activity have lengths of paracoland plastic sheeting- this session is best delivitable – however simulate as best you can in	skills to	woods Adventure guide		
Activity- Practical  I know the important things to remember when building a simple shelter using plastic sheeting.	<ul> <li>Twists, Turns &amp; Knots This activity will introduce or complement rope and knot work that may or may not have been delivered as part of other Adventure Skills learning. </li> <li>Show the group the different types of rope etc. that are available and explain their use.</li> <li>Next hand out lengths of rope and teach the group to tie a 'reef knot' to develop a little confidence in knot work.</li> <li>Next demonstrate the tying of a 'bow line' and 'half hitch' respectively and help the group to complete these knots, explaining that these knots are used when securing lines to tarp sheet and trees/ anchors.</li> </ul>					gested time: inutes cord/ / Sisal/ Rope Pioneering e- Ropes & Knots Backwoods SI ources
Activity- Practical  I know the important things to remember when building a simple shelter using plastic sheeting.	This how If how	elter building – Sheets & Tarp s activity should demonstrate how to tie 'ridge to attach guidelines to tarp/ sheeting. setting up tarp shelters outdoors, use tree true ang the paracord/ rope from, and show the Ridgeline A frame' shelter using the paracord members to help. Explain and demonstrate the importance of paracord may from prevailing wind and how to tighten the ff and limit the impact of the elements. Itang the tarp/ sheet, attaching guidelines with me shelter, ensuring lines are taut. The group to practice tying ridgelines and meet several times and explain that as part of the meaning the tarp will be building a shelter like the	nks or if in group ho d/ rope an ositioning te tarp/ she the help of positioning ne next sea	doors, wall hooks- to we to make a simple detarp, asking grout the shelter entrance set so that water run of the group to creat g/ securing the targesion – A Backwood	d 25 m  Back avail Rope / she  Back skills  E  SFNI Resc	e/ Carabiners/ Tarp
Review		lect on all the learning delivered asking you g that they have learned and evaluate the a				gested time: nutes







Backwoods Ad	Packwo.	Sess							
Section/ Skill le	vel	Cub/ Beginner	Locat	ion			dackwoods Adventure utdoor Backwoods site		
				on length	_	s neces			
		Activity				Time Resources			
Preparation	To complete Skills Stage 2 in Backwoods Adventure Skills, the group must partake in at least two Backwoods activities additional to those undertaken at Stage 1 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 Person	sted time:  al First Aid al kits/ Maps  Cooking hent		
	st • Ei to • Ei	urvival and personal first aid kits.  Insure that maps of the site are available, noting raise help if required.  Insure all Risk assessments have been perfectivities is collected.  Insure all other kits and equipment that need to							
Activity-Practical  I know how to set up a fireplace and assist in fire lighting.  I can use hand tools correctly.  I know how to cook some food using tin foil instead of pots and pans.  I know the important things to remember when building a simple shelter using plastic sheeting.  I have	<ul> <li>Completing a Backwoods Adventure How you run Backwoods activities will be dependent on you and your experier what follows is only a suggestion, however, please ensure that whichever way run the activity that fire safety, fire building and lighting, shelter building, food proceeding and how to use tools safely are all referenced.</li> <li>On arrival, identify a clear, flat space to set up a fire that will have a minim of 4 meters clearance around the radius of the fire and is clear of the can above. Set the fire on a fire blanket, using an 8" clay/ sandy soil mound for base of the fire, building on top of this.</li> <li>Discuss fire safety and then ask the group to find dry kindling, tinder, and (twigs/ grass/ branches) to help you start the fire.</li> <li>Using vegetable peelers, follow the guidance for using bladed equipment make 'feather sticks' and use these to light the fire.</li> <li>Next, in groups, build a few basic shelters, using tarp and sisal etc demonstrate the skills learned in building such a structure. You may also we to ask the group to build a 'lean to' shelter using naturally found materials of the cooking-prepare ready cooked meats and vegetables, cooking the using skewers and baked in tin foil. Having toasted marshmallows as desits always a great sweetener and finishes any cooking activity well.</li> </ul>					N/a  Backweskills grown skills grown require the action of	equipment d to com ivity. ankets (x2) source ed food ong skewer rd/ Carabin First Aid Ki	as nplete  stuff/ s Sisal/ ners  t s SI	
participated in at least two additional Backwoods activities.	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.						<b></b>		
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.  Complete all recording and monitoring of completion of Adventure Skills as performed by the group to achieve Skills Stage 2					Sugge N/a	sted time:		

