

Scottish Outdoor Education Centres

Be Amazed At What You Can Do!

Belmont - Broomlee - Dounans



Scottish Outdoor Education Centres (SOEC) is recognised by Outdoor Education Fife as an approved provider for the Natural Connections Programme.

SOEC can deliver bespoke programmes in order to meet the aims of Natural Connections so if you are looking for a provider who can offer a broad and balanced approach to outdoor learning through a combination of the 7 elements:



- Discovering nature;
- Working together;
- Adventure skills;
- Finding your way;
- Journeying;
- Helping the environment;
- & Making Connections.

SOEC can meet your needs...



Please contact our Bookings Team or visit our website for details, downloads, offers and lots more.

Tel: 01899 221115
info@soec.org.uk

www.soec.org.uk

An example of a 5 Day Residential Natural Connections Programme at SOEC

	9.30 – 12.30 am		1.30 – 4.30 pm			6.00 – 7.30 pm	
Monday	Travel to Belmont Arrive Settle in Lunch	Where am I? Where is Belmont? Where is my dorm? Learn map skills and familiarise yourself with the Belmont buildings and woodland area using our orienteering course, then set up a course for your friends. High Climb; pupils will build their confidence on the Tree Climb by setting goals and encouraging each other. The session will start with a fun introduction to comfort zones and then pupils will climb the tree while the rest of the team look after their safety ropes!				Night Line Focus on communication skills to find your way around our blindfolded obstacle course	
Tuesday	Living Outdoors in the Belmont Woods; What do you need to live outdoors? Pupils will work together to build a shelter using natural materials found in the woodland environment. Teams will then have to become an Estate Agent; put their shelter 'on the market', share their design ideas and unique selling points with other group members, followed by a campfire lunch; learn how to build a fire, prepare lunch and cook it on the fire while roasting marshmallows!					Egg Challenge Design and build a safety vehicle that will protect an egg and see if it can survive an 8 metre drop	
Wednesday	Offsite Climbing / Abseiling Opportunity to transfer and apply new rope work and climbing skills at an offsite quarry, building on their previous success from the High Challenge		The Den Pupils will explore the den and its different habitats. Stomp through the river, meet a tree, become a bug, build a mini raft, and go river dipping.			Sensory Trail Pupils will use their senses to explore a new environment	
Thursday	Hill Walk or Canoe Trip Plan a Journey down the river or up a hill; organise and prepare resources, discover where the place is, in relation to Belmont/school/Scotland. Use your new map skills, track progress using features and work out estimated times of arrival for a lunch. Pupils can also calculate their average speed and distance (speed = distance / time)					Get Creative; write a poem, produce a play, draw a massive cartoon strip. Make something special to take back to school and share your experience with others	
Friday	Conservation Challenge: pupils will need to bring together all their new skills and experiences to help protect and conserve the local environment			End of week review Depart and travel back home			
Alternative sessions	Crate Climb	Raft Building	Flying Fox	Pole Climb	Mohawk Walk	Team Challenges	Bug Hunt

Natural Connections: the 7 Elements

Elements	Discovering Nature Understanding the natural environment	Working Together Teamwork and group activities	Adventure Skills Taking part in outdoor adventure	Finding your Way Learning to navigate and use maps	Journeying Travelling under your own power	Helping the Environment Practical work to help the environment	Making Connections Looking back, moving forward
Example Sessions	The Den Sensory Trail	Night Line Living Outdoors Egg Challenge	High Challenge Offsite Climb / Abseil	Where am I? Hill Walk or Canoe Trip	Hill Walk or Canoe Trip	Conservation Challenge	Get Creative End of week Review
Time	3 Hours 1.5 hours	1.5 hours 5 hours 1.5 hours	2 hours 3 hours	2 hours 3 hours	5 hours	3 hours	2 hours



The Wider Context: Curriculum for Excellence

Our Approach

SOEC has many years' experience in outdoor education and are keen promoters of intelligent outdoor learning. We are guided by the principles that outdoor education should be fun but that learning about ourselves and our place in the world is a natural outcome of our activities and programmes. Our ethos is informed by key values of sustainability, inclusion and environmental awareness. The start point for SOEC is that which is good for children and young people. Our aim is to deliver learning priorities and commitments such as improving the life opportunities of young people, citizenship, confidence building, leadership, healthy lifestyles and sustainable development. The information below shows the link between the sessions outlined in the Example 5 day residential Programme and the potential Curriculum for Excellence, experiences and outcomes. These are examples and not a complete list.

Working Together

Successful Learners
Living Outdoors
When talking and listening to others with different purposes, I can;

- Share information, experiences and opinions
- Explain processes and ideas
- Identify issues raised and summarise main points or findings
- Clarify points by asking questions or by asking others to say more.

LIT 2-09a

Effective Contributors
Living Outdoors
While working through a design process in response to a design brief, I can develop and communicate imaginative design solutions.
EXA 3-06a

Effective Contributors
Night Line
When I engage with others, I can respond in ways appropriate to my role, show that I value others' contributions, and use these to build on thinking.
LIT 2-02a

Journeying

Successful Learners
Hill Walk
Using simple time periods, I can give a good estimate of how long a journey should take, based on my knowledge of the link between time, speed and distance. MNU2-10c

Adventure Skills

Responsible Citizens
Offsite Climbing
I am learning to assess and manage risk, to protect myself and others, and to reduce the potential harm when possible.
HWB 2-16a

Confident Individuals
Tree Climb
While working and learning with others, I improve my range of skills, demonstrate tactics and achieve identify goals.
HWB 2-23a

Discover Nature

Successful Learners
The Den
I can apply my knowledge of how water changes state to help me understand the processes involved in the water cycle in nature over time.
SCN 2-05a

Helping the Environment

Responsible Citizens
Conservation Challenge
I can discuss the environmental impact of human activity and suggest ways in which we can live in a more environmentally responsible way. SOC 2-08a

WHERE TO FIND US:

Scottish
Outdoor
Education
Centres



As a charity, we provide innovative outdoor learning for 20,000 pupils and over 250 schools every year. Our programmes are challenging, motivating and enjoyable but they are also designed to maximise learning outcomes and deliver the aims of Curriculum for Excellence.

SOEC has 3 residential outdoor education centres each accommodating up to 200 visitors and situated in pleasant rural surroundings and within easy reach of the major towns and cities in Scotland. Our Belmont Centre is in the valley of Strathmore, Perthshire and just over an hour from the heart of Fife.

With options to stay from one night to a full week SOEC can provide a wide range of residential programmes, new field opportunities, adventure activities and cultural venues to complement work in your school.

A 5 day Natural Connections package starts from £165 with teachers visiting for free.

If you are interested in a shorter stay then please contact us or visit our website for pricing options.



5 days
£165: Jul-Mar
£198: Apr, May, Jun

natural
connections

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