

What is it you want to do

Run a series of bushcraft training days including the opportunity to bivvy overnight

Describe the project in up to 100 words

Bushcraft has always been an important part of the experiences offered by Woodcraft Folk groups. In the Bristol District we have had two new groups open in the last year and so have new adult volunteers to help run the groups. We also have several 15 and 16 year olds who are likely to become our young leaders of the future. To be able to give all our groups access to Bushcraft activities we would like to train our volunteer leaders and young leaders to be able to deliver Bushcraft sessions safely.

When is the project happening - when does it start and when does it end

We want to run a series of training days between January 2017 and April 2018 in order to experience Bushcraft activities in different seasons. We have already held one session on 28th January this year which was attended by twelve people plus three trainers who again are volunteers. We would like to run another session in September or October this year at a local woodland campsite where people can experience an overnight bivvy or try hammock camping. We would then have a final session in March or April 2018.

Why are you doing the project

Bushcraft is always a very popular activity with all the age groups involved in Woodcraft Folk (under 6s to 16 year olds). Seeing how engaged and involved the young people become in the activities is very rewarding. Giving them the opportunity to try activities they would not otherwise take part in is very important to us. We need to train more volunteers so we can offer all of our groups the chance to do Bushcraft activities. It is also an opportunity for the potential young leaders to gain skills and confidence that they can pass on in future.

What help do you want from the AK Foundation

We would like to be considered for a cash award of £440.

This is broken down as

Camp Site fees for two overnight stays for 15 people at £8 pppn total £240

Camp Fire and Fire Wood £20

Materials for activities £50

Cast Iron campfire cook pot £100

Lightweight Black and Decker Workmate WM301 £30

Why do you need help from AK Foundation up to 100 words

Whilst we are part of a national organisation who provide us with support and training in some topics, for example child protection, we do not receive financial help to run the training events we are proposing. We have some funds available locally from previous fundraising to cover part of the cost but not the full amount. Four of the people taking part in this training are 16 year olds with no income. Woodcraft Folk is a co-operative organisation where our young people are encouraged to get involved with helping with our activities. This training will help these youngsters do that.

What are the total costs/budget of the project

Total Costs are projected to be

Course on 28th January 2017 already completed £240 (this was an indoor one day event costs were room hire, materials and all participants were supplied with a knife and fire steel to take home)

Two day First Aid course booked for June 2017 £800 for 12 people (this will take place regardless of whether this bid is granted)

Two training days as detailed in this bid £440

Catering for participants at the training days £90 (we will cook on campfires as part of the training)

Total Cost £1550

How is the rest of the project being funded

The initial course on 28th January was funded by individual donations from the participants themselves including the four young leaders. The First Aid training is being paid for from local fundraising events. At the proposed overnight training events participants will make a donation to cover the cost of catering. In addition the training will be provided in house by our three experienced Bushcraft Leaders who will donate their time and expertise free of charge.

Who will benefit from the support

There are currently 9 Woodcraft Folk groups in Bristol with the possibility of a 10th opening in the next year. The groups range in age from Woodchips, the under 6s to Venturers, 13 to 16 year olds. In total we have around 100 children attending groups around the city. This training will help us provide age appropriate activities for our current members but also by training our young leaders will help these skills be passed on to future generations of Woodcraft Folk.

Would you like us to promote your project through Alpkit social media

A mention for Woodcraft Folk would be appreciated, whilst we've been around for 90 years we're less well known than Scouts!