

Learning in the Leaves

Personal Safety Equipment



When using tools and lighting fires it is important to keep yourself safe. There is a variety of personal safety equipment on the market. You should always have appropriate safety equipment available before starting an activity. Below you can see some of the options available:



High Visibility Vests

High Visibility vests are ideal for making learners more visible.

They are especially helpful with younger learners in dense woodland. The vests can also be used to make it clear who is working with tools so others know to stay away. You may also consider the use of vests when woodland environments are near roads.



Safety Gloves

Gloves are ideal for when clearing areas, especially when nettles and other stinging plants are present. A glove also helps improve safety when using cutting tools e.g. saws and knives. Usually, a glove is worn on the hand not gripping the tool. There are a variety of different gloves available on the market:

Gardening Gloves: these are cheap, come in different sizes and offer basic protection.

Close Fitting Gloves: these gloves offer protection and tactility.

Cut Resistant Gloves: are graded to protect from accidental cuts.



Safety Goggles

Safety goggles are useful when using tools that may splinter wood. For example the use of an axe may send splinters into the air. Goggles are a cheap but effecting piece of personal safety equipment.



Fire Safety Equipment

Fire gloves/ welders gloves are ideal when handling hot items from the fire, e.g. pans, hot logs etc. They can be worn by nervous learners whilst working with the fire to improve their comfort.

Fire Extinguishing Equipment: when working with fires it is always important to have a method for extinguishing the fire, especially during an emergency. These could be specific purchased products e.g. fire blankets or extinguishers. However, a bucket full of water could also act as an extinguisher.



First Aid Kits

There are a variety of first aid kits available for purchase. When considering the first aid kit for your forest school it is important to consider the size of your group and the location of your forest to local facilities.