



Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center
2024 Spring Upper Level Homeschool Semester
Wilderness Survival Skills



Ages 12-14 Years Old (students must be 12 years old by the start of classes)

Class Sessions: Tuesdays 9:30am-11:30am, Tuesdays 1:00pm-3:00pm,
Thursdays 9:30am-11:30am, OR Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm

Wilderness Survival Skills would be beneficial to know if you were ever lost in the forest. Do you have what it takes to survive for a few days on your own? Could you find your way back if you were lost? During this semester, each class the students will learn a new skill or practice a skill they have previously learned. Safety is the key to surviving in the wilderness, and knowledge will help you return home.

This semester is 6 weeks long. The final class is an all day hike where both morning and afternoon classes will go together.

Intro to Survival and Shelter Building **March 26rd or 28th**

People that are mentally and physically prepared to survive in a wilderness situation are more likely to survive and do well. During class, we will be discussing some basics of survival and learning to build a proper shelter that will keep us warm and dry.

Shelter Building: Part 2 **April 2nd or April 4th**

This week the classes will put their finishing touches on their shelters and look at what they could have in their backpacks to help them in a survival situation. Sometimes it is all about thinking outside of the box.

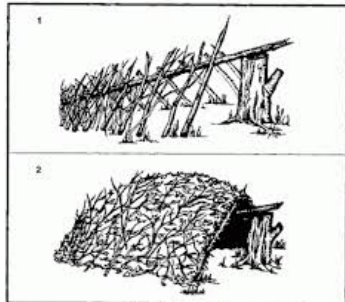


Figure 5-11. Debris hut.

The Art of Making Fire **April 9th or 11th**

Knowing how to build a fire can be a useful skill in the wilderness. The class will attempt to build a fire by using several techniques such as a bow drill, flint and steel and even good old fashion matches. Without fire, a survivalist would be unable to cook food, purify water, keep predators away or stay warm.



Orienteering **April 16th or 18th**

The students will learn to use a compass and the sun as they navigate their way around Fernbrook to complete an orienteering course. Student will put to the test their survival and teamwork skills to finish the course.

Finding Food and Water **April 23rd or 25th**

Traps and snares are one way to obtain food in a survival situation. Although we are not aiming to trap and animals, the students will learn where to place a snare and how to create one. They will then try their hands at creating a working snare or trap that could catch an animal.

Hiking Field Trip: Sourland Mountains **April 30th or May 2nd**

This is a culminating hiking trip that will help students utilize some of the survival skills that they have worked on throughout the past 5 weeks.

In the past students were driven in Fernbrook passenger vans as well as parents carpooling. We operated a Tuesday trip (am & pm classes combined) and a Thursday trip (am & pm classes combined). Each day the groups met at Fernbrook at 9:30am and returned at approximately 2:30pm. It is a fun and exciting trip.

**** Class topics are subject to change depending on weather and environmental factors which may affect the effectiveness of the class topic ****