

Forest School Programme 2022/2023

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Forest School Programme Details



Closing date for applications: Friday 24th June 2022.

Please note: **If you have received funding to complete the Forest Schools programme in the last 3 years, you are unfortunately not eligible to re-apply at this time.**

Forest School Programme Details

The Northern Ireland Forest School Association (NIFSA) has been developing and delivering outdoor learning programmes for schools, nurseries and youth organisations across Northern Ireland since 2008. They have trained hundreds of teachers to become accredited Forest School Level 3 Leaders in the process.

The Forest School Development Package will be **FREE** to 10 successful organisations within the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council area. The Package aims to support schools and youth organisations to:

- Identify a local Council Park, Geopark site or public space (permission required) that is accessible to the organisation or an appropriate place within school grounds.
- Develop ideas for this area as an outdoor classroom.
- Train a member of staff or volunteer in Forest School Leadership and become confident and competent to deliver outdoor sessions on a regular basis.
- Inspire children to explore and learn about their local environment and by doing so, teach them to respect nature.

10 selected schools/organisations will receive:

- 4 practical sessions over 2 days at your chosen site.
- Forest School Starter Kit Bag including Learning Resources.
- Official NIFSA Forest School plaque for your school on successful completion.

The teacher/leader taking part in the programme will have to attend online zoom sessions and submit lesson plans and assignments. This will include;

- 5 online Zoom sessions to cover the theory
- Submit 4 assignments and 6 lesson plans
- Upon successful **completion of the programme** and the submission of a **learning portfolio** and **evaluation**, the teacher will receive a **Level 3 Forest School Certificate**. **We would request that all participating schools/groups submit this for assessment within 6 months of taking part of the programme.**

Terms and conditions

During the application process, each school/youth organisation will be scored individually on various criteria. We are looking for teachers/leaders who are passionate about outdoor education and young people who would benefit from the programme.

We ask that the young people attend regularly to get the maximum benefit of the outdoor education programme.

Eligibility Criteria

- If you have received funding to complete the Forest Schools Programme in the last 3 years, you are unfortunately not eligible to re-apply at this time.
- To apply for funding, your school/group must be based in the Fermanagh and Omagh District.

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council are working in partnership with the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership & Cuilcagh Lakelands Global Geopark to support Forest Schools as a sustainable initiative. Once a teacher gains their Level 3 Forest School Award, it is hoped that learning will continue throughout the school/organisation.

This programme is being supported through funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Challenge Fund.