



SHELTER BUILDING

SELF-LED LESSON PLAN

Start the session by asking the group about different types of shelters in the bush (you can use the following headings):

1) Natural shelters

- > Rock formations (overhangs)
- > Trees (tree den, tree shelter)
- > Caves

2) Debris shelters

- > Lean-to shelter
- > A-frame
- > Tee-pee

3) Poncho / Tarpaulin or sheeting shelters

Materials that can be used are: canvas, plastic, ponchos, mylar emergency blanket, garbage bag

- > Lean-to
- > Double lean-to (A-frame)
- > Jungle A-frame

4) Snow Shelters

- > Snow caves
- > Snow trench
- > Quinzhee/Quinzee hut

Then you can go into the “debris” shelters and explain that each team will build a shelter using **ONLY** natural resources (branches, sticks, logs, leaf litter).

No clothing, nothing out of their daypacks, nothing from the bush that “shouldn’t be there”.

Ask them for considerations when building and ensure the following is covered:

IDEAS

- > The location of the shelter (flat-ish ground etc.)
- > Doorway in relation to surface under the shelter
- > Purpose of a shelter? How to protect from weather (wind and rain, keep warm)
- > Talk about possible structures (see other sheet)

RULES:

- > Boundaries for them to collect resources (within your eye sight)
- > Leave No Trace – no breaking branches off trees
- > “If it’s bigger than you, it takes two” (carrying large branches)
- > Size (needs to fit ALL team members in) ***If the adult has been helping, they will need to go in as well!
- > All team members **MUST** help whether that be collecting or building.

Also: Please brief the students on wasps as there have been nests in the area. Tell them to look where they are putting their hands before they touch things.

TASK

Split the group into groups of 4-5 and have an adult SUPERVISING each group. (The adult should not be helping them to build).

- > Give them set planning time (5 mins) and set building time.
- > For additional fun you can have them come up with a sales pitch, which they must present in front of the group once they have built the shelter.
- > Tell them to create a "unique feature" for their shelter.
- > Tell them we will TEST them against the elements.

During the build, remind them of the time / how much time they have left. Perhaps allow 5 minutes at the end for them to prepare their sales pitch.

Once the shelters are built, the whole group will go to each team's shelter and they will have a chance to present it to everyone else including their special feature. Get everyone in the building team to get into their shelter and if you like you can "test its purpose" by sprinkling some water on it (from your water bottle) to see who is dry!

Once you have been around them all, explain the deconstruction process. 10 minutes to deconstruct... Same rules as before ("if it's bigger than you, it takes two") and set a couple of rules:

- > No jumping / kicking shelters
- > No throwing logs/branches/sticks
- > Deconstruct safely, spread out resources so the next team have to "scavenge" – place the logs/branches out in different areas.
- > All team members must help
- > Leave No Trace – hikers shouldn't be able to see that we have done this session here

DEBRIEF & WALK BACK

- > Debrief the shelters – what was good about each one?
- > Were they different?
- > Then debrief the teamwork!