

# ROBIN HOOD

## SURVIVAL DAY

### Activities may include:

**Arrival and Introduction:** Our staff will set the scene with a story of Robin Hood, explaining why the merry men are on the run.

**The Woods:** Our own merry man will introduce the woodland with a walk, exploring what is on offer to aid survival in that environment. Children will search for "wanted" posters of the merry men on their journey through the woodland and may be required to hide from the Sherriff and his troops!

**Survival Needs:** The basic requirements for survival will be discussed and the rest of the session will be focused on finding ways to meet those needs.

**Merry Men's Village:** Children will decide what their village might contain, for example: keeping animals, lookout posts, archery training areas and anything else their imaginations insist should be a part of their camp.

**Shelter:** In small teams, children will design and build basic shelters using a mixture of given and found materials. A challenge will be set to camouflage these using leaves, branches etc. in order that the merry men remain hidden from the Sheriff. The shelters will be tested for their protection from water and wind.

**Warmth:** Our instructor will set and manage a wood fire, using firewood the group collect, to provide warmth and a place the group can sit and reflect on their surroundings, whilst sharing stories of their experiences.

**Scavenger Hunt & Camouflage Hat:** Children will collect key items from the grounds which we will discuss and then use to make a camouflage hat to get them in role!

**Tracks and Trails:** Children will be shown some basic tracking and trail-setting which they will practice in the woodland.

A full day is needed to do all of these activities (9.30–3.30). In most cases a day visit is shorter and will only include the main activities (*in bold italics*) from the list above. Groups should not exceed 50 young people.

If the group has 30 or more children it should be split into two groups of equal size. There will be a half-hour lunch break where your staff will be expected to supervise the children.

# COMING TO BEAUMANOR IN COSTUME:



It will make your day more enjoyable if you, your leaders and your children come to Beaumanor in costume, with a period packed lunch. It will enable the children to enjoy the day more if they feel 'part of' the theme.

The Robin Hood Survival day provides a good opportunity for craft time at school to prepare costumes to bring for the day. Some suggestions you might like to follow:

## 1. Background:

Explain the introduction to the Robin Hood story..... How good people were forced out of their homes by persecution, heavy taxes and starvation, into a life of survival in the woodlands. Explain how one nobleman turned outlaw and led some of these people in fighting back against the ruling classes..... notably the Sheriff of Nottingham and his henchmen. Our day picks up the story when these outlaws had to build homes in the woods to survive and stay hidden from the Sheriff's men.

## 2. Costume:

Simple medieval costume is relatively easy to make, but costume shops almost always have merry men/Robin Hood costumes too.

A combination of any of these home-made ideas will look excellent:

- Green Tights
- Pointy slippers/over shoes/knee high soft boots
- Green/brown tunic/tee-shirt/dress, belted at the waist or....
- Green/brown trousers tucked into boots
- Green/brown cape/hooded jerkin
- Pointy 'merry men' hat
- Arrow quiver, plastic sword, toy bow, staff etc

Whatever you choose, the costume MUST be warm and weather proof!!! Most of the day will be outside unless the weather conditions present a safety risk.

## 3. Packed Lunch:

A leather pouch/handbag/satchel or cloth tied at the ends (maybe on a stick) as a lunch carrier, containing perhaps:

- Cooked chicken legs/sausages/block of cheese
- Bread roll/chunky bread
- Apples/pears & apple juice/water etc

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information or to book a visit please call **01509 890119** or email [beaumanor.hall@leics.gov.uk](mailto:beaumanor.hall@leics.gov.uk)

Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse, Leicestershire LE12 8TX

[www.beaumanorhall.co.uk](http://www.beaumanorhall.co.uk)

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