

BUSHCRAFT

Wesertal

PÄDAGOGICAL
CONCEPT



SOCIAL PROJECTS
TEAM DEVELOPMENT
EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION
BUSHCRAFT AND SURVIVAL
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

GENUINE.
AUTHENTIC.
APPROACHABLE.



Imprint

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1 The company

Bushcraft Wesertal is a team of outdoor enthusiasts and experiential educators, spanning various fields such as child and youth welfare, occupational therapy, and environmental education. Their course program encompasses diverse experiential educational activities and aspects of sustainability development. The primary objective is to bolster the participants' self-confidence, contributing to positive personality development. Simultaneously, participants are sensitized to the needs of nature, fostering a life in harmony with it.

High staffing ratio

Our differentiation from other providers lies primarily in the exceptional staff-to-participant ratio and the practical delivery of knowledge with a direct focus on hands-on experience. In contrast to traditional frontal teaching methods, we incorporate this approach as a significant component of our holistic concept.

Experience nature



The forest camp of Bushcraft Wesertal is located in Northern Hesse, in close proximity to Sababurg Wildlife Park. The low-stimulus wilderness environment helps participants redirect their focus to their individual perception, providing a decelerating effect.

In key points

- Personality development
- Experience-oriented
- Sustainability development
- Practice-oriented knowledge transfer
- holistic concept
- Living with nature

2 Our guidelines

A central pillar of our concept is respectful encounters. Through conscious interactions between people and between humans and nature, our participants also experience an encounter with themselves.

We offer people an extraordinary experiential space to strengthen their self-efficacy and self-awareness.

We assist individuals in recognizing and transforming their destructive behavioral patterns.

We impart the value of teamwork, effective organization, and appreciative communication.

We help people discover their limits and create an awareness of the importance of relaxation and taking breaks through "self-care" practices when necessary.

We inspire individuals to recognize and creatively unfold their own potentials.

human.nature.connection.



These guiding principles form a cornerstone of our company.



In key points

- Appreciative encounter
- Strengthening of self-efficacy
- Nature as process companion
- Transforming behavior patterns
- Added value of teamwork
- Self-care
- Inspiration

3 Our mission

The present times have led many people to perceive nature as a disconnected place. We see ourselves as facilitators who skillfully introduce people to nature on the basis of experiential education.

Our guidance in nature experiences is designed as interactive environmental education. Our goal is to inspire participants to appreciate the wilderness and thereby raise awareness about the habitat of nature, its characteristics, and requirements.

From our own experiences, we understand that nature is not just a place for recreation but a complex ecosystem that needs protection, as our existence is inseparable from it. Therefore, our mission is to reconnect humans and nature through tangible encounters. We believe that people only advocate for things they personally know and appreciate.



"We strengthen the connection between people and nature and thus enable regeneration for both sides"



In key points

- Mediator between humans and nature
- Experiential educational
- Experiential encounters
- Humans and nature as one
- Connection

4 Target groups

Our offerings appeal to nature enthusiasts of all ages. Open course formats are particularly suitable for shared experiences with families, providing adventure and shared experiences for youth friendship groups, and allowing grandparents to spend time with their grandchildren. Additionally, we offer customized courses for businesses and organizations to promote team development.

In the open formats of our courses, we regularly encounter significant differences in age and expertise among participants. It becomes clear that this diversity is by no means a disadvantage.

Experiencing diversity

On the contrary, the collective challenges of a survival course require a wide range of skills, providing everyone involved with the immediate experience that our differences are a strength. Through the joint accomplishment of tasks, participants experience something tangible that is often abstract in everyday life, demonstrating that through our diversity, we can collectively achieve something that would not be possible for individuals alone.



Shared experiences

We welcome and appreciate all ethnicities, skin colors, age groups, religions, abilities, genders, and sexual orientations. In doing so, we create a culture that is truly diverse, equitable, and inclusive.



In key points

- All nature lovers
- Young to old
- Friendship groups
- Families
- Team development for companies
- People with handicaps
- Socially disadvantaged people

5 The team

Our team is characterized by diversity and expertise, with trainers of varying ages and backgrounds. The broad spectrum ranges from artisanal and technical professions to extensive experience in different branches of the military. This diversity allows us to authentically demonstrate the value of diversity and work across generations. In total, seven trainers with comprehensive expertise are available.

Our long-standing successful organization of experiential educational events, particularly as a network partner for the Reinhardswald Nature Park, combined with our expertise as family individuals and professional challenges in child and youth welfare—especially in dealing with disocial aggressive youth and individuals with addiction issues—results in a comprehensive profile of expertise.

The fundamental connection among us lies in our love for nature and the positive experience of living and working in community, despite age differences and diverse professional backgrounds.

That's why our motto at Bushcraft Wesertal is:

Together Strong



Our Team f.l.:
Ben, Marjan, Sandra, Matthias, Joy, Justin, Martin



With heart and nature

As a coaching team, we always operate on an equal footing with each other. This means our interactions are characterized by fairness, impartiality, and mutual acceptance.

In key points

- Diversity
- Professional competence
- Love of nature
- Intergenerational
- Authentic
- Liveliness
- With heart
- Cooperation
- Co-Creation

6 Our working methods

As experiential educators, we consider ourselves and our colleagues as experts in guiding experiential activities. Our professional group, ranging from cave explorers to wilderness experts, shares the enthusiasm for joint discovery journeys in nature. Our goal is not only to reach beautiful places but also to open internal spaces of experience and utilize gained insights for everyday life. The fascination of experiential education lies in the rapid formation of strong communities through the joint accomplishment of tasks, creating a powerful sense of belonging.

The most fulfilling experience for experiential educators is to observe guided groups and individuals surpassing themselves through challenges, becoming braver and more self-confident as a result. Experiential education primarily involves practical pedagogical practice – we are practitioners who follow the motto "learning by doing." Our methods, such as problem-solving tasks, orientation workshops, rope and climbing techniques, fire-making without a lighter, water filtering, and more, aim to push participants out of their comfort zones. A crucial role is played by subsequent reflection to process the experiences for all involved and apply them to everyday life. As experienced experiential educators, it is essential to tactfully tailor the external conditions and activities to the groups, fostering each individual's competencies without overwhelming them.

Inner and outer spaces of experience



Our courses particularly emphasize the practical application of theoretical knowledge. Participants immediately apply the know-how acquired in short theoretical sections into practice. The synthesis of theoretical knowledge and practical application leads to positive and enduring experiences. Nowadays, such experiences gained through practical applications are scientifically considered especially desirable, as they are, in essence, significantly more sustainable than purely theoretical concepts without practical relevance.

In key points

- Community building in nature
- Sense of community through accomplishing tasks
- Development through challenges
- Practical knowledge transfer
- Inner and outer experience spaces

7 Pedagogical course

After a brief introduction at the beginning of the course, the group, along with the trainers, embarks on a journey to the training location (forest camp). Typically, participants experience a certain tension at the start of the course due to the new situation they find themselves in. Additionally, they often bring, albeit unconsciously, stress from their respective life situations. It is important not to carry this stress into the course. Therefore, it is crucial to provide the group with only a brief overview at the beginning of the course and then set out together as a group on the upcoming adventure.

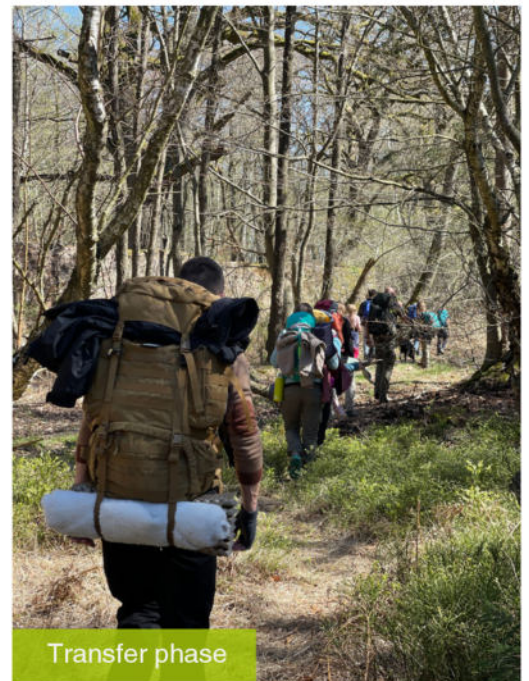
The first section of the course serves as a transitional and deceleration phase from the everyday to the extraordinary experiential space. It is crucial, as experienced experiential educators, to focus on this aspect at the beginning since uncertainty is at its peak for all participants during this time.

In the further course of the program, fundamental skills for building a night camp are taught following the EDI principle (explain, demonstrate, imitate). Special emphasis is placed on participants preparing their own sleeping area immediately upon reaching the camp. This enables them to create a personal retreat early on. Although it is only used late in the evening, this step has a significant psychological effect. By experiencing a sense of security, participants are better able to fully engage in the activities that follow.

Protected frame



Joint break



Transfer phase

Throughout the course, the main topics of each module are conveyed in different block units, based on the DEIP training principle (demonstrate, explain, imitate, practice). After the final training segment, participants are divided into interest groups for firewood gathering and communal meal preparation. Following the meal, a break allows for individual reflection on the experiences so far. The results of the reflection are discussed collectively to demonstrate that, despite similar influences and activities, individuals perceive things differently. A wisdom story by the fire shifts the focus from the individual to universal truths and the bigger picture. Before bedtime, trainers once again sensitize participants to the natural environment and its characteristics (night sounds, wildlife). This includes discussing fears or individual needs, where the trust relationship plays a crucial role. Addressing concerns, needs, and fears in a genuine manner forms the basis for building mutual trust.

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On the next day, after morning hygiene, the first task is to dismantle the sleeping areas to avoid unnecessary time pressure. A communal breakfast provides an opportunity to share experiences from the night, which can be pedagogically valuable and comforting. Another training session follows after breakfast, followed by the return hike to the starting point as a transitional phase back into the participants' everyday lives. The entire event is verbally summarized by the experiential educators and dialogically reflected upon with the group. Finally, certificates are awarded, akin to an award ceremony, to demonstrably document the acquired skills and make the experiences tangible—an effective method for the transfer into daily life.

Reflection and Transfer

Workspace nature

A fundamental component of our work is nature. For us, it serves as a healthy workspace, colleague, and at the same time, a process companion. Due to the modern, alienated lifestyle of humans, nature provides us with an extraordinary experiential space with many beneficial effects on the body and psyche. Spending time in nature leads, among other things, to stress reduction, promotes vitality, reduces rumination, and strengthens the immune system. This has now been proven through various scientifically supported studies.



Development of quality

We at Bushcraft Wesertal are always striving to evolve. Therefore, we regularly participate in various training and further education programs covering all relevant areas for us and our work. Ongoing supervision after our courses and periodic evaluation through surveys of our clients are common practices for us. This provides the foundation for the development of our offerings and all existing course formats. Additionally, all trainers are actively engaged in personal development in the areas of personality and stress management in both professional and everyday life.

In key points

- Transfer and deceleration
- Protected framework
- Self-care
- Teaching basic skills
- Training according to the DEIP principle
- Confidence building and reflection
- Promotion of self-efficacy



JOIN US FOR ADVENTURE

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