



River Bivouac



About the activity

The river 'bivy' is an amazing chance for your pupils to get close to nature and experience a night sleeping outdoors. Having reached the end of their first day's canoeing down the Ardèche Gorge, they build a basic overnight camp near the side of the river. During the evening, they'll enjoy an evening meal and after some evening entertainment, it's finally time to bed down under the stars and re-charge for another thrilling day ahead.

Activity aims

The aim of this activity is to:

- Introduce the skill of basic 'wild' camping and the necessary equipment.
- Allow each participant to experience camping.
- Encourage the participants to set goals.
- Ensure participants support and encourage each other to achieve those goals.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to discuss what they have accomplished.

Progression opportunities

Some participants may also:

- Improve the quality and consistency of their camping skills.
- Take the initiative in evaluating their performance and that of the group.

In addition, participants should also have developed in the following:

- Interpersonal communication
- Teamwork
- Using initiative

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the activity, participants will have:

- Demonstrated a range of skills required to set up and use a basic camp safely under supervision.
- Used specialist equipment and PPE, understanding its purpose and name.
- Demonstrated the ability to listen to, understand and act on instructions received.
- Supported their peers throughout the activity and recognised achievements.
- Developed an understanding of associated hazards, been able to assess risks and understood how these may be controlled.
- Contributed to a post-activity review led by the instructor identifying what they did well and then suggested ways to improve.

Associated vocabulary

Words relevant to safety	e.g. hazard, personal protective equipment, risk assessment, safety area.
Words relevant to equipment	e.g. tent, sleeping bag, poles, tarpaulin, roll-mat, guy-lines
Words relevant to the activity	e.g. shelter, sharing, environment, cooperation.
Words relevant to teamwork	e.g. achievement, challenge, communication, encouragement, listening, participation, review, support, trust.