



**MOUNTAIN SHEPHERD  
ADVENTURE SCHOOL**

# BUSHCRAFT ESSENTIALS

A course for adults to learn important life-saving wilderness skills, acquire confidence, eliminate wilderness fears, and to gain wilderness experience. Bushcraft refers to the skills required for living in the backcountry. We focus on teaching you primitive shelters and fire, using tools, orienteering and using and creating your own gear. Mountain Shepherd's approach to Bushcraft is centered around reducing your dependence on modern backpacking gear while increasing your ability to exist comfortably in a wilderness setting. While there is a distinct difference between survival and bushcraft, a solid foundation in these skills will enhance your ability for survival and help you to maintain a positive mental attitude if the situation was ever to arise.

## Adventure Highlights

- 2 days/1 night
- Survival training
- Primitive wilderness skills
- All meals included
- Memories to last a lifetime
- Small group environment (10 maximum)
- Hands-on learning

## Travel Arrangements

Your adventure begins and ends at the Mountain Shepherd Lodge in Catawba, VA. The nearest airport is Roanoke (ROA), which is approximately a 30 minute drive time. Arrival time is by 9:30 Saturday morning. The course concludes by 1:00 on Sunday.

## Activity Level

### Easy to Moderate

There will be a 1/4 mile, 10-minute hike to the teaching campsite (this does begin with a short, steep climb). At the end of the day, the group will walk back to the Lodge for dinner, and the option to pack-up for an evening out under the stars back at the campsite.

Day 2 will also involve a short hike to the campsite to continue the survival training, with the option to do a little hiking on the property on the way back to the Lodge.

## Who Chooses This Course

Outdoor experience levels do not matter. We have students with no experience, to occasional weekend hikers, to warriors of the wilderness.

Everyone learns valuable information in this course. You will leave prepared to help yourself and others while on any adventure.

## What's Included

### Gear

The only required items are weather appropriate clothing and comfortable tennis/walking/hiking shoes or boots. You don't need to buy a thing. The equipment list includes gear you should always have with you on an outdoor adventure. Bring what you have or borrow from us. We have everything you'll need. It's best to borrow before you buy. Part of the training includes gear recommendations for your personal survival kit.

### Meals

All meals and snacks are provided, with plenty of options and dietary accommodations available.

### Overnight accommodations

This is your adventure! You may choose to fully embrace the experience by spending the night in an improvised survival shelter. It's also totally fine to sleep in a tent, a hammock, or a bunk in the lodge. The choice is yours.

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## PACKING LIST

- Seasonally appropriate clothes:
  - Good fitting and broken-in hiking boots/shoes
  - Hiking socks (wool or synthetic recommended)
  - Active T-shirt (synthetic or merino wool recommended—avoid cotton)
  - Lightweight insulating top layer (a light, long-sleeve synthetic fleece or wool shirt, sweater, or jacket)
  - Second insulating top layer (an additional synthetic, wool, or fleece shirt, jacket, or vest)
  - Consider a third, heavier insulating layer such as a puffy jacket or thicker fleece (not needed in summer)
  - Rain jacket (hood and ventilating zippers recommended)
  - Hiking pants (durable, quick drying synthetic pants are ideal)
  - Bottom base layer, e.g. midweight synthetic or merino wool long john pants (not needed in summer)
  - Warm winter hat and gloves or mittens (not needed in summer)
- Water Bottle – fresh drinking water for refills provided
- Optional Gear List:
  - Backpack
  - Sleeping Bag
  - Sleeping Pad
  - Pillow
  - Flashlight or headlamp
  - Knife – fixed and/or folding blade
  - Whistle
  - Signal Mirror
  - Cooking pot and utensils
  - Notepad/pen

## DIRECTIONS

**From the North:** Interstate 81 South towards Roanoke, Va. Take Exit 141. Take a left at the stop light. The next light is Route 311. You'll see the Orange Market on the left. A BP and Subway on the right. Take a right. Follow Route 311 for 12 miles to a left on Route 621/Upper Craigs Creek Road. Follow Route 621 for 9.3 miles. Set your odometer, as it is a long and winding 9.3 miles to our sign on the right. Our property is lined with a brown wooden fence. Take the right on Hemlock Ridge Lane and stay straight through the red gates. Get a bit of momentum heading up the hill. Parking area is at the bottom of the circle driveway.

**From the South:** Interstate 81 North towards Christiansburg/Blacksburg, Va. Take Exit 118B US-11/US 460 towards Blacksburg. Follow US 460 approximately 15.8 miles to a right on Route 621/Craigs Creek Road. Watch for a brown Jefferson National Forest sign on the right. The right turn on Route 621 is just past that sign. Follow Rt. 621 for 11.9 miles to our sign on the left. Just before the turn on Hemlock Ridge Lane you will pass a white church on the left. Our property is lined with a brown wooden fence. Take the left on Hemlock Ridge Lane and stay straight through the red gates. Get a bit of momentum heading up the hill. Parking area is at the bottom of the circle driveway.

**From the West:** Take 460 East to a left on Route 621. (If your GPS directs you to turn on Route 42, avoid it. You will end up on dirt road. Stay on 460 until you reach Route 621!) Watch for a brown Jefferson National Forest sign and a sign for Pandapas Pond on the right. The left turn on Route 621 is just past that sign. Follow Rt. 621 for 11.9 miles to our sign on the left. Just before the turn on Hemlock Ridge Lane you will pass a white church on the left. Our property is lined with a brown wooden fence. Take the left on Hemlock Ridge Lane and stay straight through the red gates. Get a bit of momentum heading up the hill. Parking area is at the bottom of the circle driveway.

**From the East:** Travel to Interstate 81 and follow the directions above from the north or the south.

