

School Camps at Boshack Outback



Boshack Outback and [Educated by Nature](#) have formed a partnership to deliver school camps that offer a truly immersive nature-based learning experience and have time to build awareness, connection, and resilience. Boshack camps offer a balance of rich curriculum linked outdoor teaching opportunities with time for children to play, relax, unwind and reconnect. We welcome schools to this truly Australian Outback adventure.

Educated by Nature is a [team](#) of passionate Nature Educators: we are teachers, mentors and playworkers who assist children, parents and teachers develop connections and learn within nature. [Daniel Burton](#) and [Trudi Bennett](#) lead the team. They are Nature Connection Mentors and qualified teachers specialising in outdoor classrooms. Their knowledge base has formed over many years through additional professional development, study tours and participation and presentation at various conferences within Australia and internationally. Emphasis is placed on engagement with current research, networks and mentoring relationships.



"Children get more of their physical activity (42%) from free play than any other activity, including sport" (2014 report card on Physical Activity for Children and Young People)

At Boshack, students have the opportunity to experience real life examples of classroom-based concepts. Science, Geography and History become tangible experiences that engage and enthuse students and build neural connections that stick!

"90% of teachers see increased enthusiasm and engagement in outdoor classrooms and 70% of teachers feel increased motivation when teaching outdoors" (University of Illinois)

Boshack is a completely self-sufficient 'off grid' campsite, offering students and teachers an opportunity a low tech, high engagement chance to get away from the hustle and bustle, to open up the mind and the senses and destress.

"Children manage stress better when they have more contact with nature and 75% of students who spend regular time outdoors tend to be more creative and better able to problem solve in the classroom" (Vesekack E.M, Cain-Chang, L., & Miller, D.L., 2010)

Curriculum-linked Activities and Experiences

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"Students participating in an environmental education curriculum in the outdoors] increased maths scores by 63%, language arts scores by 76% and social studies scores by 73%" (Coyle, 2010)

Students will be guided in a range of experiences inspired by some of the leading nature-based connection and education models from around the world.

An Educated by Nature - Boshack Camp experience allows students and teachers to develop:

- Relationships with nature
- Environmental awareness
- Team building skills
- Survival skills
- Physical literacy (coordination, balance, strength)
- Sustainable living practices
- Understanding of conservation, regeneration and land management

Camp Schedule

At a regular Boshack camp, trained Nature Educators and Nature Connection Mentors from Educated by Nature lead students in activities and experiences that immerse the senses in nature and weave an intricate story of local history, building connection to environment, people and land.

A detailed itinerary will be provided upon confirmation of booking, the following outlines a collection of the regular activities a school will experience at a camp at Boshack. Please note that the number of activities provided is dependent on duration of camp.

Activity Outlines

Dreamtime

Boshack is home to a vast collection of native flora and fauna. Nature Connection techniques are used to open awareness and connection to the space around the dreamtime area. Using Deep Nature Connection core routines such as Sit Spots and Wilderness Awareness Games, our Nature Connection Mentors lead students through an adrenaline fuelled nature game and sense meditation. Students are supported to ground themselves in place and space, using dreamtime stories passed on from local Noongar Elders. The stories are then followed by a brief introduction of the hunter - gatherer lifestyle, connecting to the Sheoak forest and use of space as well as an opportunity to experience both the didgeridoo local delicacies of the witchetty grub.

Farm Tour

Boshack Outback sits on a 250-acre plot of land containing Sheoak, Banksia and Melaleuca forests, a range of wild and domesticated animals, natural springs as well as a freshwater human-made lake. Students will have an opportunity to experience the elements of a hobby farm in Boshack's Farm Tour activity. Following a rustic trailer ride through the farm, students will experience the following elements to truly immerse them in the farming lifestyle.

- Sheep mustering on foot - Sheep were brought to this country from England by the early settlers and many farms were established in the wheat belt area. Part of the farmer's tasks was to round up the sheep to shear them. Students will round up these sheep in the paddock and guide them into the pens near the shed. (Seasonal)
- Feed farm animals - meet Boshack's resident horses and have an opportunity to feed them a special snack.
- Early Settler and Aboriginal History - a scenic walk through a Paperbark Forest provides an opportunity to explore local Noongar and Early Settler history. Discussing the uses of the natural resources such as melaleuca and fresh spring water this tour is an opportunity to discuss scientific, environment, historical and geographical information focussed on sustainable living practices.
- Marron Netting - The bush freshwater crayfish was an alternative to the meat diet in the bush. This crayfish is very similar to the ordinary crayfish that is caught from the sea. Students have the chance to pull nets and experience holding a marron. Discussions about salinity, early settlement as well as Boshack's early history also occur on this part of the tour.

Shelter Building

Cubby building is a universal childhood passion provides an opportunity to integrate a range of learning outcomes in an experience that is playful, fun, challenging and requires creativity. Shelter is also one of the keys to survival; it will protect you from the elements. A shelter must be large enough to protect you but small enough to contain your body heat, especially in cold climates. The most common error in making a shelter is to make it too large. Framework is one of the main keys to a successful structure. Students will be supported to learn a series of simple to use knots and then be tasked with the challenge of building a bush hut using resources found in the natural environment. In this activity students are also introduced to the Sheoak forest and Banksia woodland and provided with an opportunity to identify differences in their immediate surroundings.

Canoeing Introduction

Lake Serene offers a unique connection to land and water. Fed by the springs on site at Boshack, this freshwater lake is home to a variety of animals and provides an engaging recreational site. Camp facilitators introduce water safety and the correct use of PFD (personal floatation device) and Canoeing equipment and then support students to master a range of canoeing techniques while exploring the lake. Canoeing on Lake Serene can become a peaceful nature connection experience in amongst joyful fun.

Canoeing Challenge

Included in multiple night camps, the Canoe Challenge provides students with their second chance to get on the lake. This activity is accompanied a challenges that requires cooperation, creative problem solving and stamina and offers a chance to put their canoeing skills to the test.

Fox, Chicken, Grain Challenge - a lateral thinking riddle that requires team-work to get a fox, a chicken and a bag of grain from one bank to another without risking any of the objects getting eaten.

Billy Balance - Boiling water is an important survival skill. In this group challenge, teams of 3 use their canoeing skills to collect the necessary equipment from the edge of the lake. They are then challenged to build a support for their billy can and create a small survival fire to boil water. (lighting the fire will be seasonal)

Orienteering (*Led by Boshack Staff OR self-led dependant on duration of camp*)

Being able to interpret from a map to the land and execute a route choice successfully without getting lost is an important skill. Covering cardinal directions, identification of natural landmarks and use of a compass this activity provides students with a chance to spend time out on the land, on foot exploring the banksia woodlands. Small groups will set off to find a series of markers to collect letters and form a sentence to complete the challenge. This activity also provides a chance to discuss first aid safety, snake awareness and self care in the form of sun safety and hydration awareness.

Obstacle Course (*Led by Boshack Staff OR self-led dependant on duration of camp*)

Take a leisurely walk along the bush track taking in the smells and sights of our peaceful bush environment arriving at our obstacle course. At first glance it does not seem very challenging, but wait for a few twists which will get your heart pumping and test your coordination and fire up your competitive spirit.

Optional Evening activities

Evening activities (Optional Extras)

Star Gazing (1 hour)

Lay back on the earth and relax, while looking up at the stars and hearing stories from Aboriginal, Greek and Polynesian mythology. Learn about the importance of the Southern Cross and discover which planets and other celestial bodies we can see with the naked eye. This session uses both stories and science to increase understanding of the universe as well as practical skills for orientation to directions.

Campfire songs (1 hours)

Gathering around a fire creates a memorable camp experience and helps bond the group as they are mesmerized by the flames and kept warm at night. Camp facilitators introduce fire safety and link the starting of a campfire with the power of fire in the Australian bush environment. Students collect tinder and wood to light a communal fire on the edge of Lake Serene, then help tell stories of the day and sing some songs with the camp facilitator and their ukulele.

(A 2 hour session option includes starting fire by friction where participants practise using a fire-steel)

Spotlight (1 hours)

Join the camp facilitators on a night stalk to one of Boshack's fields to play a game of spotlight. Creep quietly through the bush to see what animals are about then sneak through the dark to capture a flag without being spotted by a torch wielding person. Strategy, adrenaline, bravery, courage, victory.

Campfire (1.5 hours) *N.B. extra cost for food and prep time*

Cooking on an open fire is a traditional outback camping experience and the original way that meals were prepared at Boshack. This is your opportunity to enjoy the thrill of making a small meal from scratch, cooked on a bed of hot coals. Choose from 'Smores (marshmallows in a chocolate biscuit sandwich), damper with jam, chocolate cake in an orange or campfire banana splits for a delicious evening supper.