Course Theme:
Outdoor and experiential learning activities interest most people, especially children and young people. Even those who are mainly interested in ‘hanging out with friends’, have difficulties with conventional education and are generally reluctant to move outside their comfort zone, can rarely resist participating.

As practitioners our aim is to support the people we work with in their personal development, to create positive learning experiences and be more engaged with our participants. Outdoor and experiential learning provides excellent opportunities to put this into practice with activities that are interesting and link together group work/learning and individual development.
Course content and structure:
Over 5 days, the course serves to initiate and support an organically developing group process during which these themes will be brought to life:

- Outdoor and experiential learning activities focused on different group phases. Focused on ice breakers, trust building, bonding, accepting diversity, working with conflicts, encouraging participation
- Aspects of communication
- Theoretical background of the Adventure Based Counselling concept
- Theoretical models on aspects of learning
- Exploring the connections between social pedagogy and outdoor / experiential learning
- Building positive relationships
- Working with group dynamics
- Reflection of group process and personal development
- Transfer to own practice
Using the Energy of the Experience

At the end of the course you will...:

- have relevant knowledge of the theoretical background and concepts of outdoor and experiential learning settings,
- be aware of the theoretical and practical connections between outdoor and experiential learning activities and social pedagogy,
- have experienced the relevance and impact of using outdoor and experiential learning activities for group processes and learning,
- have experienced the use of reflection in drawing out the learning aspects of activities.

Who the course is for:
We welcome everyone who is interested in using outdoor and experiential learning activities either in their private or professional life. Residential child care workers, play workers, and youth workers might be particularly interested in participating. No previous knowledge is needed.

Course facilitation:
Sylvia Holthoff & Gisela Heinz are both social pedagogic trainers for experiential outdoor activities with longstanding experience in working with a range of groups.
The course venue:
Braziers Park is a magical old mansion located between Oxford and Reading. The house is a listed building and is surrounded by a large outdoor area with woods and rolling hills, and several fire places for campfires. It is run by a living community and provides course participants with wholesome and organic food. The individually styled rooms in which participants will be accommodated add to the charm of Braziers Park.

Course dates:
May 24 – May 28, 2010

Course costs:
£995 & VAT (£735 training - £260 4 night accommodation and full-board)

Booking and further information:
For booking details and more information on the course, please contact Sylvia Holthoff (sylvia@thempra.org.uk) or visit www.thempra.org.uk