Service Topic Categories - Overview

Service Topic Category	Overview/Key Details	Types of Activities Within this Category	Other Notes
#1. Ecosystem Explorations and Land Stewardship	**Facilitation style:** Direct instruction, guided and open exploration, modelling and demonstration **Recommended group numbers:** Maximum 30 (schools group) but ideally closer to 15 **Recommended timing of each session:** 45 min - 2 hours	**Types of Activities/subtopics:** ● Pollination ● Engagement with seasonal phenomena ● Native plants and animals ● Minibeasts ● Bird nesting/migration/ communication ● Removal of harmful plants (e.g. cherry laurel) ● Environmental cycles - nitrogen, water, carbon ● Alternative energy (solar, wind, etc) ● Biome studies - bog, woodland, etc ● Designing and planting hedgerows/pocket woodlands ● Map making	All categories are governed by the same ethos umbrella. There is lots of inherent overlap, but the topic categories are distilled out to give indicators to the reader for what they might encounter in different Seed Scholars programming. **Types of activities embedded throughout all topics:** ● Games ● Mindfulness ● Movement ● Songs ● Community building ● Sensory awareness ● Reflection ● Storytelling **Approaches Enlisted:**

		• Citizen Science projects • Biodiversity recording **Notes:** • Can match well with Green Schools projects	• Lots of partner and small group work • Stations/rotations • Following curiosity and inspiration emerging from nature and group interests • Multimodal participation protocols • Visual/Kinesthetic/ Auditory participation pathways • Embedded choice **General overview of ethos/guiding principles:** • Mind yourself/mind others/mind nature • Experiential/hands-on learning • Whole person approach • head/hands/heart • Responsive Classroom • Interdependence/ collaboration • Inquiry-based • Place-based
#2. Seed to Fork Gardening for Biodiversity	**Facilitation style:** Mixed of Direct Instruction and Guided Exploration, modelling and demonstration **Recommended group numbers:** Maximum 30 (schools group) But ideally closer to 15 **Recommended timing of each session:** 45 min - 2 hours	**Types of Activities/subtopics:** • Designing gardens → spacing, etc. • Permaculture principles • Soil assessment and amendments • Bed preparation • Sowing seeds • Planting plugs • Intercropping • Companion Planting • Integrated Pest Management + Beneficial Minibeasts • Herbs/medicinal plants and teas • Composting • Harvesting • Cooking • Nutrition	

		Notes: • Can match well with Green Schools projects • Read more about inspiration for this approach on the Life Lab website	• Climate Action • Inclusivity • Process > Product • Growth Mindset • Importance of relationships and trust **General overview of benefits:** • Fine and gross motor skills • Holistic wellbeing - fun and nourishment • Problem solving/critical thinking skills • Making something to bring home • Developing confidence and self-esteem • Teamwork • Creative expression • Sense of awe and wonder • Feeling of connection - combating isolation • Supporting regeneration of
#3. Forest School Approach	**Facilitation style:** Child led, play based, managed risk, observation and scaffolding, small groups for mini lessons/direct instruction **Recommended group numbers:** 16 participants maximum, 2 adults required **Recommended timing of each session:**	**Types of Activities/subtopics:** • Bushcraft skills/working with tools • Tree climbing • rope-work/knots • Fire-making • Foraging • Wild cooking • Den/shelter building • Wildlife tracking • Wild plant/animal identification **Notes:**	

	1.5 - 2 hours	• Find Seed Scholars as a member with the Irish Forest School Association.	biodiversity
#4. Nature Arts & Crafts Creativity	**Facilitation style:** Direct instruction, modelling/demonstration, open and guided exploration **Recommended group numbers:** Maximum 30 but ideally closer to 15 **Recommended timing of each session:** 45 min - 2 hours	**Types of Activities/subtopics:** • Natural prints, paints and dyes • Cordage • Studying colour in nature • Working with wood • Nature/land sculptures • Weaving • Working with clay • Making salves/balms • Designing/building/ making with nature/seasons as inspiration **Notes:** • Links well with BLAST and Creative Schools Projects, with which Seed Scholars is registered.	