



Election of directors of FSA: 2020

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL FSA MEMBERS
Application to become a Director and Trustee of the Forest School Association

Full Name:... Lewis Ames

Organisation/Freelance: Children of the Forest Limited
 (If you are involved with any organisation – please state the name of the organisation and position held).

Sector Experience/Skills (please rate, with X, each from 0 to 3: 0 = no experience, 1 = general background/experience, 2 = Strong relevant experience, 3 = direct relevant experience):

Sector Experience	0	1	2	3
Early Years Forest School				X
Primary Years Forest School				X
Secondary Years Forest School			X	
Special Needs Forest School			X	
Play Sector			X	
Environmental Organisations involvement with Forest School				X
County Council Forest School				X
Academic Research for Forest School/Higher Education			X	
Outdoor learning				X
Forest/Woodland management				X
Forest School Training				X
Other (please specify)				
Skills				
Media/Communications including social media				X
Business/Marketing				X
Fundraising				X
Events				X
Public Speaking				X
Business Acumen			X	
Other (please specify)				



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Please tell us a bit about yourself (max 500 words), including;

- Why you are standing for FSA directorship?

I am standing because I believe that the FSA is a vital organisation in the current climate. With increasing uptake and progress of Forest School education across the UK I would like to contribute to the maintenance of the principles and beliefs of the FSA while also encouraging expansion to include and inform new educators.

As a newer member, I believe that I have the energy and enthusiasm to learn from more experienced members whilst also providing a valuable service both to the FSA as an organisation but also to the community which it serves.

- Your Forest School experience (and this is not necessarily a pre requisite but you will need to have some basic working knowledge of Forest School)

I currently am one of two directors of Children of the Forest (est. 2015) and Devon Forest Kindergarten (est. 2018) Our kindergarten runs one day per week, operating on government funding and private places. Children of the Forest operates toddler groups, home education groups and school projects. Our home education group has a high proportion of children with SEN needs ranging from anxiety to Attachment Disorder and ADD. I am also a host of 'The Forest School Podcast' which discusses research, interviews and contemporary issues as they relate to Forest School and aims to provide support and resources for Forest School leaders worldwide. This summer we will be accepting and training our first cohort of Level 3 students through OSN West Midlands, specifically due to their close affiliation and support from the FSA.

- How you personally can benefit the FSA.

I believe my knowledge of new media and technology would be an asset to the FSA, both as a communicator of information, events and training and also as a component to expand the reach and visibility of the FSA online. My work so far has given me in depth knowledge both of behavioural uses and factors of social media, but also in the implementation and 'nuts and bolts' of the technology behind the digital outreach.

My passion for Forest school and its community has already lead me to speak in many public settings about forest school education and how it can benefit children . I've equally been espousing the values of the FSA privately by starting 'the Forest School Podcast' in order to promote the FSA as a resource as well as to support and advise the community of leaders worldwide. I believe I could offer both that enthusiasm as well as knowledge of how to reach our community into an official capacity as a Director of the FSA.

I have a range of experience in the fundraising sector having acquired grants from private sector companies, such as Tesco 'Bags for Life', and from the public sector from organisations such as the AONB. We have even used crowd sourcing to secure finances for some projects. I then distributed and monitored the progress of these grants, culminating in generating reports which assessed their impact and effectiveness. These reports were invaluable as a tool with which we could improve our funding applications and use of funding during following projects. During my time as a teacher I was part of several fundraising

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projects, including a school garden development project involving over 50 volunteers, large quantities of building supplies from multiple companies and both timetabling and communicating the plan to all involved.

- Please declare any special interests or affiliations with other organisations in the Forest School sector including commercial, public sector or voluntary.

I am a director at Children of the Forest Limited. I am not involved with any other organisation relating to forest school.

Your information will form the basis for the members to vote in advance of the AGM – and your personal commitment to your role as a Director and Trustee of the Forest School Association.

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