



A Collaborative Program of
Arbor Day Foundation and
Dimensions Educational Research Foundation

Rustic Arbor

#6919

Assembly & Installation Instructions

Please open and inspect all items upon receipt. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us immediately.

1-888-908-8733 | service@natureexplore.org | natureexplore.org



Quality Commitment

Nature Explore is dedicated to children's education and safety. All of our resources are field-tested by experienced teachers and researchers prior to being available in the Sourcebook. Items that are hand-crafted, such as instruments, tables or balance beams, are done so by trusted professionals who share in our mission to connect children with nature. Our natural resources are crafted out of wood and other materials carefully selected for functionality, safety and durability.

If you ever have questions or would like more information about items you would like to order or have received, please contact us via phone or email. We are happy to discuss things in detail with you or send you additional information.

If inquiring about an existing order please have your 'bill to' zip code and order number handy (Ex: SO90001234). Also, our warranty, return and exchange policies are located online for your quick reference.

All items created by and manufactured exclusively for Nature Explore are done so in accordance with all relevant and applicable safety standards and recommendations as set forth by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and ASTM International. Be sure to consider additional regulations that may be unique to your site.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) 2010 Standards for Accessible Design

The 2010 ADA Design Guidelines state that at ground level, the clear width of accessible routes shall be a minimum of 60 inches. However, the clear width of accessible routes shall be permitted to be a minimum of 36 inches for a distance of 60 inches maximum provided that multiple reduced width segments are separated by segments that are 60 inches wide minimum and 60 inches long minimum.

When installed, the Nature Explore Rustic Arbor measures approximately 48 inches wide at the base. To comply with ADA Guidelines, narrow your 60 inch wide accessible route under the Rustic Arbor to 36 inches or more for a distance shorter than 60 inches.

Please reference section 1008 of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design for more information. We encourage all outdoor classrooms to be designed as universally accessible spaces.



Narrow accessible route beneath Rustic Arbor to a width greater than 36 inches for a distance of 60 inches or less. The remaining accessible route should measure 60 inches.

How to Assemble & Install a Rustic Arbor

Recommended Ages: All Ages

Recommended Crew: 2 people

Tools Needed:

1. Post Hole Digger
2. Phillips Screwdriver
3. Adjustable Wrench
4. Level

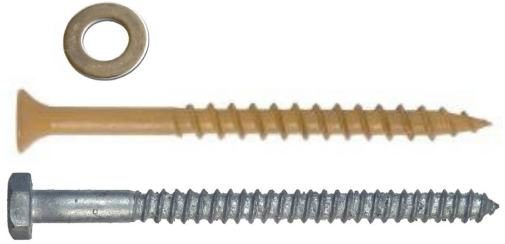
Materials Needed: (Not included)

1. Dry-mix Concrete, such as Sakrete or similar
2. 1-2 Tubes Exterior Grade Construction Adhesive
3. 6 feet Rope or Ratchet Straps
4. 150-grit Sandpaper



Parts List:

- 1 - Top Assembly
- 2 - Side Assemblies
- 4 - Angle Braces
- 4 - Rebar Leg Anchors
- 16 - 1/4" Flat Washers
- 12 - Wood Screws, 2 1/2" long
- 16 - 1/4" Lag Bolts, 2 1/2" long



Please Note: *Rustic Arbors are NOT designed to be used as a climbing feature in any way (i.e. monkey bars). To discourage climbing, place the Arbor at an entry way into the outdoor classroom and away from other high activity play areas. If necessary, consider strategically placing planter boxes outside of the Rustic Arbor to discourage any possible climbing activity. Rustic Arbors should be used with adult supervision.*

For Best Results:

To help extend the life of your Rustic Arbor, upon assembly we recommend:

- Application of a commercial wood-protector or water-seal

Check with local building codes, playground experts, and wood preservation experts for your local rules and regulations and to ask what would be best to use around children.

- 1 Thoroughly read and review all instructions before you begin.
- 2 Lay the Top Assembly of the arbor on the ground upside down. All pre-drilled holes will be facing up.

3 Look at the pointed ends of the Side Assemblies to determine the color of the piece. Locate the matching color hole found in the Top Assembly. Also locate the small pre-drilled screw holes on the Top and Side Assemblies (this will be helpful for final assembly.)



4 Now look at the ends of the four Angle Braces to determine the color of each piece. Locate the matching color hole on the Top Assembly.



Note: Painted end of brace has to go into the painted hole in the arbor.

5 Due to natural log variances, some trial and error may be necessary to complete the next step. Depending on the fit of your individual logs, complete either Step 5a or 5b. Do not force the fit of any log, as the log may crack.

5a Insert the Angle Braces into the Top Assembly of the arbor. Next, insert the pointed ends of the Side Assembly into the Top Assembly. While leaning the legs away from the braces, align the holes in the Side Assemblies with the Angle Braces and tilt out toward the braces carefully guiding them into the hole.



5b Insert the Angle Braces into the Top Assembly of the arbor. Next, insert the braces into the Side Assemblies (which will be leaning outward). Tilt the Side Assemblies inward making sure the braces stay inserted in them until they line up with holes in the Top Assembly. Insert the Side Assemblies into the Top Assembly.

- 6 After dry-fitting the pieces, disassemble. Apply a line of Exterior Grade Construction Adhesive halfway in each hole along the sides of each hole. Repeat **steps 2-5**.

Note: Logs cannot be disassembled after adhesive has dried. You may wish to clamp the pieces together as the adhesive dries.



- 7 Screw the Side Assemblies to the Top Assembly using the pre-drilled screw holes and the provided 2 1/2" Wood Screws. Use one screw for each of the four posts, attaching each post through the Top Assembly.

- 8 Rotate the Angle Braces until they sit completely in the holes.

- 9 Using two 2 1/2" Wood Screws for each of the four braces, secure the Angle Braces to the Side Assemblies and Top Assembly as shown in the following picture (pre-drilling is recommended). Pull the legs outward and secure with a rope or ratchet strap until the adhesive has dried.



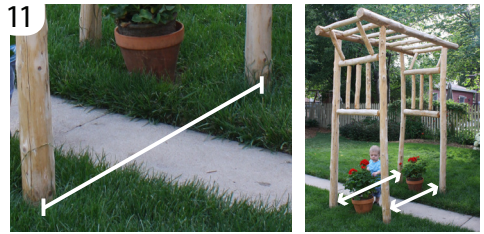
Note: Adhesive may take approximately 12 hours to cure. Follow the directions from the Adhesive manufacture for proper drying times.

10 Before the adhesive has dried, wipe off any excess. Sand with 150-grit Sandpaper as desired.

11 Measure the distance between the front and back posts of the Side Assemblies from the center of each post.

Front distance between posts:

Back distance between posts:



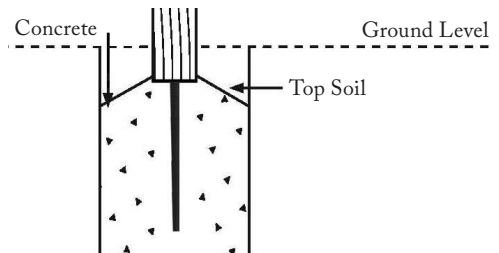
12 For permanent installation, use a Post Hold Digger to form 6-7" wide holes, using the distance found in step 12. The holes should measure the depth of your local frost line.

13 With the arbor laying on its side, insert the Rebar Leg Anchors into the bottom posts of the Side Assemblies and fasten using 4 provided 2 1/2" Lag Bolts and Flat Washers for each Anchor.



14 Carefully stand the arbor up and place it in the holes dug in the ground.

15 Pour the Dry-mix Concrete into the holes to fill the space. If you desire a more natural look, leave the top couple inches of the holes void, to fill with soil once the concrete has cured.



- 16 Using a level, check several points along the arbor, making sure the arbor has been installed plumb.
- 17 Add water to the top of the Dry-mix Concrete to harden. Follow the manufacturer's cure time.
- 18 Cover concrete with top soil, if desired.

Your Rustic Arbor has now been completely installed!



Important Facts About Natural Wood Products

Many of our items, such as Giant Tree Cookies, balance beams, tables, seating, and instruments, are hand-crafted out of natural materials for their educational and environmental value, natural aesthetic qualities, and personal enjoyment. Routine visual inspection and occasional sanding or bolt tightening is recommended to ensure items are in the best and safest condition and to extend the overall useful life of the item(s). If indicated, items can arrive with an initial application of a weather sealant. Annual application is recommended.

As natural wood resources age and acclimate to changing climates, you will notice graining, knots and checking (a natural cracking process that occurs as wood releases moisture across annual growth rings) as shown below. Should this natural process result in splintering or a rough surface, simply sand the area and return it to use. Also, these resources will naturally develop a beautiful silvery-gray patina over time. Observing wood's natural color change and aging is a valuable part of children's connection with nature. Each item's dimension and appearance will vary due to the uniqueness of the wood from which it was created.



There are a variety of treatment options you can use to extend the life of your Nature Explore product such as linseed oil or soy-based sealants. Please consult a local expert (i.e. wood-working expert, general contractor, lumber yard, parks & recreation department, etc.) to see what options are appropriate and safe in your particular area.

In rare cases, as items continue to dry and acclimate to your local climate/environment, there is a chance that mold discoloration will appear. Routine sanding and ensuring the item is installed on a surface with adequate drainage (i.e. mulch, gravel, etc.) will reduce the potential for mold. Installing on grass surfaces allows moisture to be trapped underneath the product and is not recommended. Should mold occur on any of your Nature Explore items, please contact us for a quick and easy removal recommendations.

Nature Explore Classroom resources are designed to bring children closer to nature and help them develop life-long learning skills. To ensure safety and effectiveness, please be sure to follow the instructions for installation, building codes, warnings, and maintenance. Failure to follow all of the instructions will void any warranty offer. Furthermore, even Nature Explore Classroom resources installed and maintained in accordance with the instructions can present hazards to children in the absence of adequate supervision.

Depending on the location and nature of the outdoor classroom, the supervisors may be paid professionals (full-time park or school/child care facility staff), paid seasonal workers (college or high school students), volunteers (PTA members), or the parents of the children playing in the outdoor classroom. The quality of the supervision depends on the quality of the supervisor's knowledge of safe play behavior. Therefore, supervisors should understand the basics of safety in an outdoor classroom.

Outdoor classroom supervisors should be aware that not all equipment and items are appropriate for all children who may use the outdoor classroom. Posted signs or labels indicating the appropriate age of the users should be checked before play begins, and supervisors should direct children to equipment appropriate for their age. It is also very important to recognize that preschool-age children require more attentive supervision than older children do.

Building Codes:

Variations in building codes, specific local development covenants, or site conditions may require modification to the installation of the product. Outdoor classroom owners are ultimately responsible for complying with all applicable permits, building codes and other regulatory requirements, and should review their outdoor classroom with local building inspectors. All appropriate building permits should be obtained prior to starting installation.

Liability:

Nature Explore shall have no liability or responsibility for actions or inaction in connection with any Nature Explore item or any damage or liability that arises during the construction and/or use. Always read and observe all safety precautions provided by the Consumer Product Safety Council regarding toy safety, playground safety, and any other applicable programs. Likewise, always read and observe all safety precautions provided by any tool or equipment manufacturer consulted during installation.