



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.



Quality Commitment

Thank you for your shared commitment to connecting children with nature and your support of children's life-long learning. Nature Explore is dedicated to providing quality, research-based educational materials for your outdoor spaces, as well as outdoor classroom design services and educator workshops.

Our natural products are field-tested by trained educators who observe children using them in play—focusing on safety, educational-value and versatility—prior to being offered in the Resource Guide. Our natural products, such as wooden instruments, tables or balance beams, are hand-crafted by trusted professionals who support our shared mission. All natural products are constructed of materials carefully selected for functionality, safety and durability.

We encourage you to contact us with questions or for more information on our natural products and services. If inquiring about a past or existing order, please have your order number handy (Ex: SO90001234) so we may answer your questions and provide additional information as needed. **All of our warranty, return and exchange policies can be found online or sent by request. Please contact us at service@natureexplore.org or 1-888-908-8733.**

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.



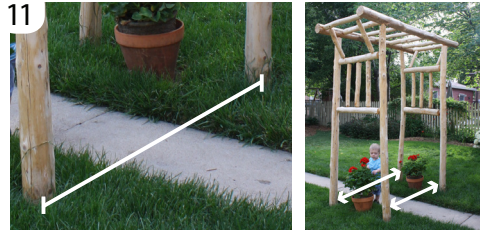
Note: Adhesive may take approximately 12 hours to cure. Follow the directions from the Adhesive manufacture for proper drying times.

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.

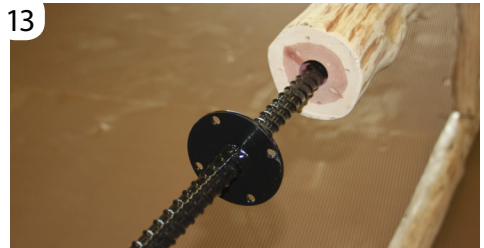
Front distance between posts:

Back distance between posts:



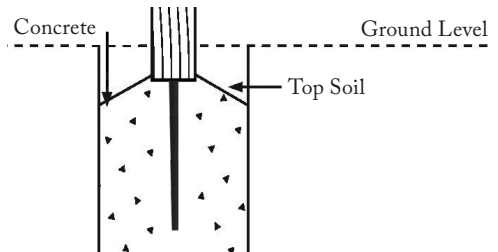
12 For permanent installation, use a Post Hold Digger to form 6-7" wide holes, using the distance found in step 11. The holes should measure the depth of your local frost line.

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!



What to Expect from Natural Wood Products

Nature Explore field-tested components are made of natural materials that bring children in close contact with the beautiful patterns and colors of nature. Due to the nature of raw and untreated wood, you will notice graining, knots, checking (a natural cracking process that occurs as wood releases moisture across the annual growth rings), and in rare instances, insects. This is not a defect in the product, but a natural process that should be expected. Additionally, unfinished wood will naturally develop a beautiful silvery-gray patina over time.

Below are some examples of what you may encounter and can expect with your order:



Extending the Life of your Natural Wood Products

Nature Explore items such as Tree Cookies, Natural Balance Beams, Marimbas, At-Ease Benches, etc. are natural, untreated wood products that require regularly scheduled, routine maintenance in order to maintain safety and extend the life of the item. Some items will arrive with an initial coat of sealant while others are left untreated (please refer to product overview & specifications). It is our recommendation that you apply an initial sealant and maintain a schedule of reapplication annually to biannually to extend the life of your product. When considering treatment options we advise seeking the expertise of local wood workers, lumber yards, general contractors, etc. to understand which options are most effective and safe for your area. Routine sanding of the tops, sides and interior (if applicable) surfaces of the item will minimize splinters, reduce the chance of mildew and extend the life of your product. As your natural wood product becomes acclimated to your local environment, and sometimes even occurring in the transit process, a mildew discoloration will appear. You can reduce the risk of continued mildewing by making sure your item is installed on a surface with adequate drainage such as mulch or gravel. Installing or placement directly on grass surfaces is not recommended as it allows moisture to be trapped underneath.

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.