



Stump Circles

Stump circles are common at RELCs and in other outdoor classrooms. Stump circles are formed with a large ring of tree stump slices of uniform height, generally about one to two feet tall, and wide enough in diameter to offer support as a seat. They are placed in a large circle, with enough seats to accommodate all members of a typical learning or hiking group at that site. They can serve as gathering spots for group check-ins, a lesson, or other group discussion. Stump circles allow for group conversation, supporting contributions by all members of the group. Additionally, by providing natural places to sit, programs can support students who may not be comfortable sitting on the ground, while still helping them develop a connection to nature and establish a sense of place.



Photo credit: Kathleen O'Connor, NatureBridge Golden Gate