

Deseret Peak District Cub Scout Leader Roundtable

July 2011
Roundtable



Ins and Outs of Campfire Programs

CAMPFIRES can be large or small, formal or informal. A campfire will have the most success if there is a purpose, direction and a definite idea of what it is trying to accomplish. Most of all they need to be fun and memorable.

LOCATION

Your first step in planning your campfire is deciding on where to have it. When choosing your location, make sure that there are not any fire restrictions for that area. Ask yourself if the location will accommodate the number of people that will be attending? Depending on how long you are planning on your campfire program being you will also need to ask the following questions when selecting a location. Is there drinking water onsite? Are there any restrooms onsite? Below are a few ideas of possible locations.

Someone's backyard

The Wigwam – ContactGeraldine or Dennis McBeth 882-4613

Settlement Canyon

Any other camp sites

THEMES AND GUEST SPEAKERS

Be creative with your campfire programs. If you center your campfire around a theme it makes choosing activities, skits, speakers and refreshments much easier to plan out. It also makes for campfires that the boys will remember into their adulthood. Some ideas include:

Wild, Wild West Theme – Everyone comes in their western wear. Invite someone to come dressed in Old Time Western Wear, with a strong drawl, shooting blanks with their gun as they arrive at the campfire, and have them speak in the first person about their time living in the early days of the boys home town. You could even have someone dress up as an Indian and tell the boys in the first person about their tribe's time in this area. This will pass off some of the requirements for the boys.

Jungle Theme – Invite someone from the zoo, someone from the natural resources department, a bird refuge or someone from a local pet store to bring animals to show the boys and talk to the boys about the importance of respecting wildlife.

Lost in Space Theme – Invite someone to come from an observatory with telescopes to teach the boys about star constellations and other planets. Or you could have a leader dress up as an astronaut and walk the kids through space (on a trail with different stations) and show the kids each planet and tell the kids about the planets.

Patriotic Theme – Have someone dress up as one of the founding fathers and in the first person tell the boys about the making of the constitution. Or have someone dress up like Betsy Ross and in the first person tell the boys the history of the American flag. You could also invite a member of the military to assist in retiring a flag and have them discuss what the flag and our country means to them.

S'more Campfire Fun Theme – Invite a couple of different generations of scouts to talk about their favorite campfire memories in cub scouts. Have them teach the boys a song or skit they did as a boy.

Iron Chef Theme – give the boys some ingredients and see what they can make. Let the boys have their parents taste it. Then have someone that does dutch oven cooking teach the boys how to cook in a dutch oven.

BUDGET

Once you have your location and theme you can then begin budgeting for your campfire program. Make sure that you consider the following items in your budget:

Is there a fee you'll need to pay to use your location?

How many people are you planning on?

Are you presenting awards at your campfire? If so, how much money needs to be budgeted for this?

Are you going to have any activities? What supplies will you need?

Do you need to pay your guest speaker? Typically this will not be an issue as most people will do this for free.

Are you serving refreshments?

What utensils, plates or bowls will you need?

Do you have wood for your campfire? You won't want to forget this.

Den Leader Section

Achievements & Electives – Entertainment of the campfire

Of course your Cub Scouts will be a part of your campfire program! To make sure you are aware of what they can earn (or you can sign off), here is a reference list for Tiger Cubs, Wolf & Bears.

Tiger Cub den:

- Elective 6 / Along w/your adult partner, teach a song to your family or to your den and sing it together.
- Elective 7 / Make a musical instrument and play it with others. The others can sing or have instruments of their own.

Wolf den:

- Elective 2a / Help plan and put on a skit with costumes
- Elective 2b / Make some scenery for a skit
- Elective 2c / Make sound effects for a skit
- Elective 2d / Be the announcer for a skit
- Elective 2e / Make a paper-sack mask for a skit
- Elective 10a / Tell a story about American Indians, past or present
- Elective 11a / Learn and sing the first and last verses of “America”
- Elective 11b / Learn and sing the first verse of our national anthem.
- Elective 11C / Learn the words and sing three Cub Scouting songs.
- Elective 11F / Sing a song with your den at a pack meeting (or at a campfire program!).
- Elective 23g / Participate with your den at a campfire in front of your pack.

Bear den:

- Achievement 4c / Read two folklore stories and tell your favorite one to your den (or at a campfire program!).
- Achievement 9g / With an adult, cook something outdoors.
- Achievement 17b / Play a game of charades at a den meeting, with your family (or at a campfire program!).
- Elective 8a / Make and play a homemade musical instrument (at a campfire program!)
- Elective 8b / Learn to play 2 familiar tunes on any musical instrument. (at a campfire program!)
- Elective 8C / Play in a den band w/ homemade instruments. Play at a pack meeting (or at a campfire program!)
- Elective 25c / Participate with your den in front of the pack at a campfire. (sing a song, present a short skit, or tell a joke)

Here's some help on why to include songs, skits, jokes, & storytelling into your Campfire program. Although there are a lot of resources available to help you, we chose to stick with the Cub Scout Leader Book, the Cub Scout Leader How-to-book, the Cub Scout Songbook, and the Tiger, Wolf, & Bear handbooks. The information in these books is invaluable and we could not see any reason to re-invent the wheel! Two other great resources are:

<http://usscouts.org/bbugle.asp> (Baloo's Bugle)

<http://www.americanfolklore.net> (American folklore & Utah folklore)

About Skits:

*Skits appeal to Cub Scouts.

- Acting comes naturally to most of them and often there is but a little difference between make-believe and reality.
- Skits help channel their imagination, for example, he isn't pretending he's a knight, he is one!
- Skits help with self confidence, coordination, speech, & voice projection.
- Skits help teach teamwork and cooperation.
- You may run into a boy that is shy and doesn't want to be in the lime-light. A costume with a mask or another important role, like sound effects can help him and make him feel important. Remember, ALL boys should be recognized as important members of the group and EACH boy should play a part in your skit.

*Plan, Plan, Plan! Make sure you practice your skit prior to the performance, and not just once! Costumes, scenery, and sound effects will also need to be taken care of in advance.

About Songs:

*Why Sing?

- Most people (and Cub Scouts) love to sing.
- Singing builds spirit & enthusiasm.
- Singing gives boys a chance to be silly and let off steam.
- Singing is fun!
- Singing can set the mood for your meeting.
- Singing can be used as fillers during transition times in your meetings.
- If you're not singing in your den/pack meetings, you're missing out on the power of music!

*Choosing songs for your campfire:

- Action songs can help boys release stored-up energy.
- A patriotic song helps set a more serious or somber atmosphere.
- If you are leading the song, make sure you have some contagious enthusiasm! You need to be able to get the boys and the ADULTS singing! Don't overlook one of your boys for this, though typically, it is one of the leaders.
- A guitar can help enhance the experience (and keep everyone in tune). Find out if someone in your pack can play.
- There are several ways to teach new songs. For a group, use an Echo song or chant. You say a line, they say a line.
- Traditional songs can be uplifting and have special meaning. Don't leave out those familiar folk and spiritual songs!

About Jokes:

- Jokes add sparkle to your meetings.
- Jokes put the group in a happy frame of mind.
- Jokes are just plain fun!

About Run-ons:

- Similar to skits but short & only a couple of people.
- Makes everyone laugh and relax.
- Great to use at campfires for filling dead time or to liven up the program.

About Stories:

*Tell me a story:

- Of all the tools a leader can use, none compares to the art of storytelling.
- Stories can be used for so many things, for example, introducing a game, while on a hike, to emphasize a point, or just for fun.
- There are various types of stories, such as, fun stories, adventure stories, teaching stories, animated stories, and mystery stories.
- Some storytelling hints: Make the story move, maintain suspense, know the story, and be at ease. More hints and tips on storytelling can be found in the Cub Scout Leader Book (Cub Scout activities) and the Cub Scout Leader How-to-book (Razzle Dazzle).
- Use folklore as your story. There are all kinds of stories, even one's for our state!
- Storytelling can be the icing on the cake of your campfire program.
- Stories can help develop a love of reading. Boys have been introduced to reading, but probably don't view them as a source of entertainment or enjoyment.
- "If you can hand on something of the love of books to your scouts, you will be giving them friends which will never fail them." – Lord Baden-Powell

One Final help:

Any Cub Scouting activity, including a Campfire program, should take place in a positive atmosphere. Cub Scouts should feel emotionally secure from their peers and leaders. To make sure you stay within BSA policies and guidelines AND have a great time, we have included some "boundries" for you.

- Song lyrics should be age appropriate, positive, build self-esteem & self-confidence.
- Lyrics should not be changed to patriotic song, hymns, or spiritual songs.
- Cross-gender impersonation that is any way derogatory, rude, insulting, or lewd is prohibited. Boys can dress in female roles for skits as long as it's in good taste.
- Humor is welcome, but keep it clean never compromise someone's self-esteem.
- Content of skits should be positive and reflect the Cub Scout values.
- References to, or name-calling, put-downs, & ridiculing are not appropriate.
- Please, No derogatory comments to ethnic backgrounds, economic situations, & disabilities.
- For a complete list of guidelines see page 18 of the Cub Scout Leader Book or pgs 1-2 of the Cub Scout Songbook.
- **HAVE FUN!!!!**

Adding Webelos Activity Badges to a Campfire/Outdoor Experience

Being outdoors is what cub scouts are all about. Participating in a campfire ceremony can be both fun and meaningful. You can experience many different activities at a campfire program. It is a great time for fun stories, songs, scary stories and even a joke or two. It is also a great time to have an inspirational moment to remind the cub scouts the importance of God and His role in our lives.

There are many activity badges you could work on during a campfire ceremony. You could have a theme campfire program and focus on one activity badge or incorporate several requirements from different activity badges into one program.

Artist: Requirement #3: Draw or paint an original picture out-of-doors, using the art materials you prefer. Frame the picture for your room at home.

Have the scouts draw a picture of everyone sitting around the campfire or of the surrounding area. Find twigs or small branches to take home. At the next den meeting, make picture frames for their drawings.

Citizen: Requirements #3, #5, #6, #8, and #11

Several citizen requirements can be completed at a campfire ceremony. It would be fun to use citizenship as a campfire program theme, especially if you are planning your campfire program in July. Teach the scouts a short history of the flag and help them present a flag ceremony. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance and discuss its meaning. Give the boys an assignment to write a short story about a former U.S. president or other great American. During your campfire ceremony they could read their stories.

Communicator: Requirement #2

If the story the boys use for their citizen badge is 3 minutes long, it could also pass off requirement #2 for communicator. If you are not working on the citizen badge, they could use any story they choose.

Forester: Requirement #3, #4 and #9

Focus your program on learning more about the forest you are in. Identify 6 forest trees common in the area and tell how humans and animals use them. Do the same with 6 forest plants.

It may be fun to incorporate showman into this activity badge. Have the boys make a skit or story about the different plants or trees and their importance in the ecosystem.

Talk about the benefits and the harm in wildfires. Why are wildfires sometimes beneficial and how we can help to prevent them?

Geologist: Requirement #1

Have your scouts look for and collect different types of rocks for their rock collection.

Naturalist: Requirement #7, #8, and #12

Learn to identify poisonous plants and animals in your area. Watch 6 wild animals in the wild. Describe where you found them and what they were doing. Identify how litter may be dangerous to birds and other animals. Remember to clean up the campsite prior to starting your campfire program and before you leave.

Outdoorsman: Requirement #2, #5, #6, #7, and #8

Many of the outdoorsman requirements can be completed in one evening. Have your scouts help with the planning of your outdoor activity and include a campfire program. Discuss the Leave no Trace Guidelines and clean up your camping area. Discuss fire safety prior to building your fire. There is a fun interactive story in the Leader How-To book about fire safety.

Have a dinner before your campfire program. It could be as simple as hot dogs and s'mores or foil dinners and banana boats. Make sure the boys are helping with preparation, cooking and clean up.

You may also want to plan this activity with the Boy Scout Troop and complete an Arrow of Light requirement too.

Showman: Requirement #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #9, #16, and #19

At a prior den meeting, have the boys write a puppet play, create the puppets and create a simple stage for the play. The topic could be about one of the activity badges, a holiday or whatever they choose that is BSA appropriate. The boys could then perform their puppet play at the campfire program.

Another option would be to bring with you some simple props and costumes. The boys will break into groups and write a short skit using the props you have given them. Have them perform their skit.

Include music in your campfire program. The music will help set the tone of your program.

Remember to keep it simple and make it fun. These are just a few ideas to get you started. Remember to involve the cub scouts in the planning. If you are unsure about holding a campfire program on your own, invite families to join or make it a pack event.

WHAT KINDS OF CEREMONIES ARE USED AT PACK MEETING?

- Opening ceremonies set the stage for the pack meeting and can be theme-related.
- Flag ceremonies teach boys how to handle and present the U.S. flag in a respectful way.
- Induction ceremonies welcome new boys and their families into the pack.
- **Advancement ceremonies celebrate the completion of requirements for Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos ranks, and for the Arrow of Light Award.**
- Transition ceremonies mark the transitions for Cub Scouts from Tiger Cub to Wolf, Wolf to Bear, and Bear to Webelos Scout. Graduation ceremonies celebrate the program change from Webelos Scout to Boy Scout. They encourage boys to make the step up to their next challenge on the Scouting trail.
- Closing ceremonies bring the meeting to a close and send everyone home with inspirational ideas to think about.

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE CEREMONIES

When planning your ceremonies, remember these important points:

- Determine your audience. Keep your ceremonies appropriate for boys of Cub Scout age. Simple ceremonies are more effective than long, elaborate ones. Boys this age have a short attention span.
- Alternate responsibility among the dens for the opening, flag, and closing ceremonies at the pack meeting. When boys are involved, it is easier to hold their attention during the pack meeting.
- Use a variety of ceremonies to hold the boys' and adults' interest. Theme-related ceremonies spark the boys' imagination. Keep track of which ceremonies you use and avoid repeating them month after month.
- Adapt ceremonies to meet your needs. Packs come in many different sizes, and boys come with different skill levels. Younger boys may need to have someone read their lines while they perform an action or hold a sign. No ceremony is written in stone. Volunteers write or adapt ceremonies to meet the needs of their packs.

CAMPFIRE OPENING

CUBMASTER: Cub Scouts of Pack _____ – We are gathered here for our graduation campfire. This is a special occasion, a special tradition which has special memories! "At the first camp, on Brownsea Island, Baden-Powell and the boys were winding down at the last campfire. Baden-Powell during the campfire told the boys that a campfire was a special time of fellowship, spirituality, and good fun. He told the boys that he wouldn't be around forever, and that to keep the spirit of this time alive, he invited them to take some of the campfire ashes, when they cooled, and to spread them on all the future campfires they would be at. This way the spirit of the first scout camp would live on forever."

To help start our campfire this evening I've brought with me ashes from last years campfire! These ashes contain the memories of that campfire and the fun we had. By adding them to our campfire this year we will build new memories of our campfire this year! I ask that all scouts take a few moments to think of the good times you've had in Cub Scouting!

[Have a moment of silence to let the boys reflect]

I need your help in starting the campfire! Yell after me everything I say!

[Hold the bag of ashes up and face each of the directions (N, E, S, W) and yell out the following to add mystery to the fire lighting.]

LEADER SHOUTS:	BOY'S SHOUT:
<i>(Face to the North)</i> To the North we call... Spirit Red Thy Hunger must be Fed	To the North we call... Spirit Red Thy Hunger must be Fed
<i>(Face to the East)</i> To the East we call... Spirit Hot Forget us not	To the East we call... Spirit Hot Forget us not
<i>(Face to the South)</i> To the South we call... Spirit Gold As the year grows old Keep us from the cold	To the South we call... Spirit Gold As the year grows old Keep us from the cold
<i>(Face to the West)</i> To the West we call... Spirit White In the darkness of the night Be our shining light	To the West we call... Spirit White In the darkness of the night Be our shining light

[Pour the ashes over the campfire. Using one of the many 'magic campfire' starts ignite the campfire! As it may take a few seconds for the fire to ignite, have the boys chant 'Cub Scouts' loudly saying it is the Spirit of Scouting that lights our fire.]

I now declare the camp fire open!

<http://www.netwoods.com/cermonies/cub-grad.html>

CAMPFIRE OPENING CEREMONY

Personnel: Narrator and 7 Cub Scouts (each with his part written on a card or memorized)

Equipment: Real or artificial campfire, seven candles

CUBMASTER: Welcome to the Cub Scout campfire.

Akela is among us. Let us draw from this campfire all its vibrance and warmth, the secrets of Cub Scouting and the spirit of brotherhood.

CUB #1: In its light, we see new chances to be helpful and do our best.

CUB #2: From its warmth, we strengthen the bonds of fellowship and learn how to get along with others.

CUB #3: From the stones that ring the fire and keep its power in check, we learn how we can curb our tempers and become good citizens.

CUB #4: From the smoke that rises out of the fire, we learn to lift our eyes upward and worship God.

CUB #5: The spark that started this fire reminds us that little Good Turns can lead to greater deeds.

CUB #6: Just as the fire needs wood to burn bright, so do we need care and the love of our family to burn brightly.

CUB #7: In its leaping flames, we see the fun of Cub Scouting and the joys of life.

http://insanescouter.org/p/343/45/Campfire_Opening_Ceremony.html

ADVANCEMENT CEREMONIES

CUBBING IS LIKE A CAMPFIRE

Fred Lowry Deseret Peak District - GSLC

Equipment: some tinder (grass, leaves, bark, etc.); some kindling; a small stick; a log; an ash "clump"; a wooden match; sufficient "match" awards for all parents.

CUBMASTER: Tonight we have gathered around a campfire for an evening of enjoyment. It brings good friends together for comradery and an evening of memories. But the campfire took some special preparation and constant tending in order for it to be warm and enjoyable. Boys in Cub Scouts are similar to building this fire.

The first thing that we use to build our fire is some tinder. (*Show tinder.*) This is something which is small

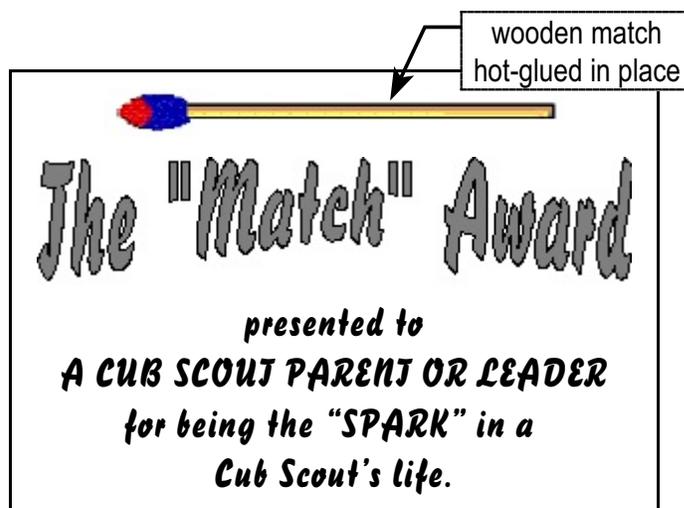
and begins combustion very rapidly. (*Lay tinder on ground or table.*) Boys who have entered the pack are similar to this tinder. They are eager to receive instruction and guidance and have earned the Bobcat badge. They will become the "glow" of their Scouting experience. Will the following boys please bring their parents forward to the campfire? (*Present awards to boys then have them return to their seats.*)

The next thing which we add to make our fire burn is some small sticks or kindling. (*Lay kindling on top of tinder.*) This is represented by our Wolves. Will the following boys please bring their parents forward to the campfire? (*Present awards to boys then have them return to their seats.*)

After the fire has begun to burn, we add small logs to help build the fire is size. (*Lay small logs on top of kindling.*) These small logs represent our Bear recipients. Will the following boys please bring their parents forward to the campfire? (*Present awards to boys then have them return to their seats.*)

After the small logs have begun to burn, we add larger logs which will provide greater length of burning and more heat. It is then that we see the completion of all the steps required for a successful campfire. These logs are represented by our Webelos. Will the following boys please bring their parents forward to the campfire? (*Present awards to boys then have them return to their seats.*)

While we have assembled all the components for a successful campfire, it has actually not yet been a campfire. It has lacked the one thing that all fires require - a source of ignition. In most cases this is a match. It is represented by the parents. Because of the important role which parents play in Cubbing, we honor each parent with "The Match Award". (*Have parents stand and present each with a simple award.*)



TALKING FEATHER

*The Cub Scout Ceremonies Book By Ellen DeVilbiss
Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner, Arapahoe District
October 1995*

Equipment: Talking Feather, Campfire

AKELA: Tonight we have a special award to present. Would _____ and his parents please join me around the campfire? Would the Den Leader also come forward to the Council Fire? (All sit Indian style around the fire.)

I hold in my hand a Talking Feather. Does anyone know what a Talking Feather is? (*If anyone speaks, ignore them. When someone raises his hand, give them the feather.*) A Talking Feather gives the person holding it the right to speak. Everyone else must listen, until the feather is passed to them. (*Akela sits.*)

Since we are honoring _____ tonight, we will pass the Feather around the circle and each of us will in turn tell about something he has done or learned as we watched him make progress along the Scouting trail. I will begin. (*Each person takes the feather, says something nice about the Scout and then passes it on. Even the Scout himself is given a chance to talk.*)

Please stand now to receive your award. I present this award to your parents to you. Please give them the proper salute. (*The proper salute for a mother is a kiss.*) Now I salute you too, _____ Scout!

<http://www.macscouter.com/Ceremony/CubScoutCeremonies.asp>

CLOSING - LORD BADEN-POWELL'S FAREWELL MESSAGE (*This letter was found among Baden-Powell's papers after his death on January 8, 1941.*)

Dear Scouts,

If you have ever seen the play, "Peter Pan", you will remember how the pirate chief was always making his dying speech, because he was afraid that possibly when the time came for him to die, he might not have time to get it off his chest.

It is much the same with me, and so, although I am not at this moment dying, I shall be doing so one of these days, and I want so send you a parting word of goodbye. Remember it is the last you will ever hear from me, so think it over.

I have had a most happy life, and I want each one of you to have as happy a life, too.

I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life. Happiness doesn't come from being rich, nor merely from being successful in your career, nor by self-indulgence.

One step towards happiness is to make yourself healthy and strong while you are a boy, so that you can be useful, and so can enjoy life when you are a man.

Nature will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy.

Be contented with what you got, and make the best of it; look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one. But the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people.

Try and leave this world a little better than you found it, and when your turn comes to die you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have "done your best".

"Be Prepared" in this way, to live happy and die happy; stick to your Scout Promise always— even after you have ceased to be a boy—and God will help you to do it.

Your friend, Baden-Powell

<http://my.dmci.net/~dmanchester/pdf/Sample.pdf>

OUTDOOR BENEDICTION

May the peace of the forest

The song of the birds

The inspiration of the hills.

The warmth of the sun

The strength of the trees

The fragrance of the flowers

The joy of the wind

The calm of the lake

In all of which is the Creator

Of all good things

Be in your heart tonight and always.

http://my.dmci.net/~dmanchester/Ceremonies/Misc/OUTDOOR_BENEDICTON.htm

CUB SCOUT VESPERS

Sing with reverence

Sing to tune of: "Oh Christmas Tree" (a.k.a. Tannenbaum)

As the night comes to this land,

On my promise I will stand,

I will help the pack to go,

As our pack helps me to grow.

Yes, I'll always give goodwill,

I'll follow my Akela still.

And before I stop to rest,

I will do my very best.

As the night comes to this land,

On my promise I will stand.

I will help the Pack to go,

As our Pack helps me to grow.

Yes, I'll always give goodwill,

I'll follow my Akela still.

And before I stop to rest,

I will do my very best.

Campfire Safety

CS RT Commissioner—Roger Ekins

Should You Build a Fire?

The most important consideration to be made when deciding to use a fire is the potential damage to the backcountry.

- What is the fire danger for the time of year and the location you have selected?
- Are there restrictions from the land managing agency?
- Is there sufficient wood so its removal will not be noticeable?
- Does the harshness of alpine and desert growing conditions for trees and shrubs mean that the regeneration of wood sources cannot keep pace with the demand for firewood?
- Do group members possess the skill to build a campfire that will leave no trace?

Lessening Impacts When Campfires Are Used

If building a fire cannot be avoided, camp in areas where wood is abundant. Choose not to have a fire in areas where there is little wood—at higher elevations, in heavily used areas, or in desert settings. A true Leave No Trace fire shows no evidence of its use.

Existing Fire Rings

The best place to build a fire is within an existing fire ring in a well-placed campsite. Keep the fire small and burning only for the time you are using it. Allow wood to burn completely to ash. Put out fires with water, not dirt. Avoid building fires next to rock outcrops where the black scars will remain for many years.

Mound Fire

Construction of a mound fire can be accomplished by using simple tools: a garden trowel, large stuff sack, and a ground cloth or plastic garbage bag. To build this type of fire:

1. Collect some mineral soil, sand, or gravel from an already disturbed source. The root hole of a toppled tree or sand from a dry riverbed are possible sources.
2. Lay a ground cloth on the fire site and then spread the soil into a circular, flat-topped mound at least 6 inches thick.

The thickness of the mound is critical to insulate the ground from the heat of the fire. The ground cloth or garbage bag is important only in that it makes cleaning up the fire much easier. The circumference of the mound should be larger than the size of the fire to allow for the inevitable spreading of coals. The advantage of the mound fire is that it can be built on flat, exposed rock or on an organic surface such as litter, duff, or grass.

Fire Pans

Use of fire pans is a good alternative for fire building. Metal oil drain pans and some backyard barbecue grills make effective and inexpensive fire pans. The pan should have at least 3-inch-high sides. Elevate the pan on rocks or line it with mineral soil so the heat will not scorch the ground.

Firewood and Cleanup

- Standing trees, dead or alive, are home to birds and insects, so leave them intact. Fallen trees also provide bird and animal shelter, increase water-holding capacity of the soil, and recycle nutrients back into the environment through decomposition. Stripping branches from standing or fallen trees also detracts from an area's natural appearance.
- Avoid using hatchets and saws or breaking branches off standing or downed trees. Use dead and downed wood, which burns easily and is easy to collect.

- Use small pieces of wood—no larger than the diameter of an adult wrist—that can be broken with your hands. This practice avoids having to use a saw or hatchet, and the wood readily burns to ash.
- Gather wood over a wide area away from camp to avoid depleting the wood supply and to let nutrients return to the soil. Along rivers and seashores, use dry driftwood.
- Stop adding new fuel to a fire near the end of its use and toss in burned ends of wood. Allow the coals to burn to white ash, thoroughly soak with water, and scatter the remains over a large area away from camp. In river corridors, ashes may have to be packed out.
- When cleaning up a mound or pan fire, replace soil where you found it.
- Scatter unused wood to keep the area looking as natural as possible.
- Pack out any campfire litter. Trash should not be burned, especially plastic items and foil-lined wrappers, the remains of which stay in the firelay.

Safety

Certain safety precautions should be followed when handling fire:

- When using stoves or fires, follow BSA procedures for supervision of young people.
- Follow all manufacturer's product and safety labels for stoves.
- Use only approved containers for fuel.
- Build campfires well away from tents or tarps.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Keep wood and other fuel sources away from fire.
- Thoroughly extinguish all fires.

Sample Pack Outdoor Campfire Safety Rules

1. Follow all rules of your campsite
2. Clear all burnable materials from your 10-foot fire circle. Don't build the fire under overhanging branches of trees or shrubs or near roots of trees.
3. Place fire inside a circle of rocks. Allow no one to walk inside that circle.
4. Once a stick is placed in the fire it must STAY in the fire!
5. NEVER leave your fire unattended. A responsible adult must be present at all times.
6. Have a pot or bucket of water nearby in case sparks start a fire away from the fire circle.
7. Have a bucket of sand and a shovel near the fire to extinguish it.
8. When you are finished cooking, make sure the fire is DEAD OUT. Spread the coals and ashes and sprinkle them with water. Stir and sprinkle until the site is cold. Feel it with your hand to make sure the fire is completely cold.