

Burn This Handout

Why Do a Campfire?

An important part of Cub Scouting is a good, safe campfire. Your campfire can serve one of several purposes on your overnight:

1. Gathering Place
2. Heat
3. Entertainment/Fun
4. Cooking
5. Place of Worship

Where to Build a Campfire

The BALOO List of approved campsites for Cub Scout overnights will give you a great start on figuring out where to build your campfire. These facilities will have the “where” pretty much laid out ahead of your arrival with a pre-placed fire ring. Some things you should check just in case:

1. Did you choose the fire ring over digging your own fire pit?
2. Has the area around the fire ring/pit been cleared of dried leaves, debris, etc. (the hard packed dirt of many sites around your fire ring = “clear”)?
3. Is the area above your campfire clear of branches, heavy leaf cover, etc.?
4. Are all tents and shelters set up well away from the fire ring? A minimum distance of 15 is safest.
5. Is it your fire downwind (protected from wind gusts)?

Equipment

1. Shovel and Rake
2. Bucket of Water
3. Matches/Lighter
4. 3 Types of Wood

Important Link 1:

<http://scoutmastercg.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/campfireinfographic.jpg>

How to Build a Campfire

Step 1: Gather three types of dry wood:

1. Tinder (tiny twigs, dried leaves, dried grass, needles)*
2. Kindling (small sticks less than 1” around)
3. Fuel (Larger sticks and pieces of wood)

*There are many types of safe fire starters that you can use to replace the tinder. If needed, burn this handout.

Step 2: Loosely pile your dry tinder in the center of your ring as the base of your fire. You want it close enough to catch other tinder and kindling on fire but far enough apart to let air into to feed your fire oxygen.

Step 3: Add kindling around the tinder in one of these ways:

1. Tipi
2. Crisscross
3. Lean-To
4. Log Cabin

Step 4: Light your tinder (matches or lighter). Discard cold match in fire.

Step 5: Add more tinder and blow on it as necessary.

Step 6: Add kindling and fuel to build the fire slowly. Don't smother your small fire. Let it breath.

Step 7: Tend your fire to keep it manageable and lit.

Step 8: Put out your fire with water. Your fire isn't out until all the coals are out/can be handled safely. Don't drown your fire.

Important Link 2:

<https://smokeybear.com/en/prevention-how-tos/campfire-safety>