

## Post-Campout Actions Lesson Plan

- Overview
  - What you need to do after a campout
  - Why? With proper maintenance, gear will last a lot longer
  - Some actions (or lack of action) can ruin gear immediately (e.g. mold on tents)
- Taking care of gear:
  - Sleeping Bag
    - Air out your sleeping bag to ensure it's dry
    - Fluff it up and store in a dry location in a cotton storage bag (not a plastic bag)
  - Tent
    - If there is any possibility of moisture spread it out to dry (immediately); it's a good idea to spread it out to dry before storage, even if you think you packed it dry
    - Leaving a moist or wet tent folded for even a day or two can allow mold to form and will ruin the tent (it's difficult to clean mildew, and the "cure" will forever weaken the tent fabric)
    - Clean out the tent before storage. Make sure dirt and loose rocks are removed from the tent.
    - Storage – store open or loosely rolled; some experts recommend storing poles in the assembled position to reduce stress on the elastic zip lines.
    - Always make absolutely sure that a tent is dry before you store it
    - Be sure to dry out the tent stakes – they also can retain moisture in the dirt that adheres to them
  - Self-inflating sleeping pad (such as a Thermarest)
    - Store inflated with the valve open. Some moisture will normally be in the pad if you used your breath to finish inflating it.
  - Dishes; cookware
    - Wash – put away clean
  - Dutch Oven
    - Clean out all food particles; clean with hot water (no soap!!)
    - Dry it thoroughly
    - Put a thin coating of vegetable oil on all interior surfaces
    - Put a folded paper towel between the lid and the bottom; this will allow the oven to breathe and prevent rust should there be any remaining moisture.
  - Boots
    - Air them out, make sure they're completely dry
    - Remove dirt; wash them if necessary; use a toothbrush to scrub hard to get to places
    - Store at normal room temperature and humidity
    - Backpack

- As with other gear, clean it, open up, and store in a cool, dry place
- Consumables
- Replenish supplies of any consumables that you keep with your gear (e.g. candle in a candle lantern, matches, etc)
- Final note: check all of your equipment before storage and make sure that everything is serviceable

Taking care of yourself

Take a shower (not only cleans off the dirt, but any plant residue)

Wash your clothes; pack them away for the next campout