

Firem'n Chit Lesson Plan

Purpose: This certification grants a Scout the right to carry matches and build campfires.

General information:

- Sometimes it's better to use a stove than to build a fire.
- Fires leave scars with long lasting effects.
- Before starting a fire:
 - Permits: Some localities or campgrounds require a permit to build an open fire. You need to know (ignorance of the law is no excuse) before you build the fire, and obtain necessary permissions.
 - Do not build a fire when conditions are too dry.
 - Build a fire ring or dig a pit – save the sod to reinstall later (place sod in a shady location with the grass side up).
 - Always ensure a jug of water and/or a shovel is available by the fire.
- Clearing the area:
 - All flammable vegetation must be cleared at least 5 feet in all directions from a fire.
 - Check above the fire ring to make sure there's no flammable vegetation.
- Starting the fire:
 - NEVER use flammable liquids (e.g. gasoline) to start a fire.
 - It's OK to use fire starter sticks
 - It's OK to use a butane lighter, but store the lighter out of the sun
 - Start with small, easily burnable material (tinder), move up to larger sticks (kindling), then to larger pieces of wood (fuel)
- Maintaining the fire
 - Only one person in charge of the fire at a time
 - Fire is attended at all times
 - No playing with the fire – do not poke at the fire; stay out of the fire ring
- Putting out the fire
 - First, spread the coals
 - Then sprinkle water on the fire to begin to cool it (steam can cause severe burns)
 - Finally, apply water liberally until the fire is “dead out” – cool to the touch
 - If water is scarce, use sand or dirt to put out the fire
- After you're done
 - Dig out ashes and dispose of properly (throw away, spread out)
 - Rocks that were used to form a fire circle should be turned over and put back
- Common problems & misconceptions
 - If a fire “looks” like it's out (no smoke), it's really out
 - Leaving the fire unattended for “just a few minutes”
 - Playing around the fire
 - More than one person attending the fire
 - Poking the fire
- Using a camping stove
 - There are two types of common fuel for camping stoves
 - White gas (Coleman fuel)

- Propane
- In Troop 344, all stove cooking is done with propane stoves – only exception is backpacking stoves.
- Lighting a stove
 - Light the match, hold close to the burner, then turn on the gas
 - Some burners have automatic starters; if so do not let gas run if fire doesn't start immediately; if starter doesn't work, use a match
- Final comments
 - Always use common sense – these rules can't possibly cover all situations
 - These privileges can be taken away if you fail to act responsibly
 - Waterproofing a match (dip head of the match in melted wax)
 - Making fire starter (lent & wax)
 - Never take tinder or fuel from a live tree
 - How to light a match (be 100% ready before lighting the match)
 - Lighting

The Outdoor Code:

As an American, I will do my best to
Be Clean in my outdoor manners.
Be Careful with fire.
Be Considerate in the outdoors.
and
Be Conservation-Minded.