

BROWNIE FIRE SAFETY (for Brownie Camping Skills Day)

Why do we have Fires? (What do we do at/with a campfire?)

Possible answers:

- Heat (although not so much any more! Dress for it. Skyland wood stoves)
- s'mores (cook)
- singing (campfires/entertainment)

What do you think are good fire safety rules?

- Build the fire in a fire ring or place specially set up for it! Clear area around (and above!)
- Always use **small** fires -- just as good for any of the reasons to have a fire, and
 - uses less wood
 - easier to control
 - easier to clean up!
- Tie back long hair (test: look at your shoes and shake your head – if you can see your hair, you need to tie it back)
- Don't wear plastic (nylon) or flammable clothing (pass around samples)
- If you are cooking something over a fire on a stick, be careful of the people around you!
- Don't play with sticks in the fire
- Close-toed shoes (and maybe long pants)
- Bucket of water (or sand), shovel, rake (and a wet stick!)
- Weather conditions – too dry or windy? May not want to have a fire!

Lighting a Fire

How a match works/types of matches

Away from you, and close to the wood!

Hold it level – fire goes up! (Light at the bottom)

Have them light matches, with one-on-one support (talk about when they are allowed to do this – only when their leader or parent is with them and says it's okay)

Building a Fire

Firewood:

Tinder – no bigger than your pinky, preferably smaller. Need lots! DRY pine needles, wood shavings,... (No leaves – they just smoke a lot.)

(Mention – and show – firestarter they can make with their troop instead of using tinder.)

Kindling – probably no bigger than your thumb. Twigs, small pieces of wood,...

Fuel – probably no bigger than your wrist/arm

Find small branches and sticks on the ground that have fallen from trees

(don't cut or break branches off trees, dead or not!)

Fire Lay:

Demo building a small "A-Frame" *very close to the edge* (so they could reach it)

Have one of the Brownies light it

Demo keeping it going – don't kill it by dumping stuff on it!

Putting it out -- sprinkle and stir, don't pour!

Demo a little, then ask another of the Brownies to finish it.

Feel to make sure it's out! (One inch above the dirt! Not **on** the dirt!)

Note: all demos. Point out that it'll be a lot easier when they have longer arms.