

Fire Building

Girls must review these precautions before building a fire.

Fire Safety

1. Use designated fire rings. Collect tinder and kindling from the surrounding woods. Use only dead, fallen wood. Fuel is located near the unit.
2. Always have a bucket of water and shovel at the fire ring BEFORE you make a fire.
3. Make sure all girls have their hair pulled back and secured with a bandanna, tie or hat. Make sure no one has loose fitting sleeves or ties that might catch fire. Everyone should have shoes and socks – no open toed shoes. No one should be within the circle of stones except the firebuilders. Practice laying the log or A-frame fire outside the fire ring until all are proficient, but light the fire within the circle.
4. Build a fire just big enough to do the job. Rarely do you need a roaring fire. But make one large enough to produce enough coals to cook your food. If the ground is wet, make a platform of dry wood in the fire ring and build on that.
5. Do not use liquid firestarters. Use girl scout approved firestarters. You may make “fuzzy sticks” with your pocket knife.
6. Never leave the fire unattended.
7. Adults should closely supervise girls with stick cooking or pie irons, making sure they are aware of the hazards of a hot stick or iron. Do not play with burning sticks.
8. Never blow or fan a fire. Build it so the wind is to your advantage.
9. Never play active games around a fire.
10. Never leave the fire circle until the fire is completely out.
11. Do not spread the ashes around in the woods until the day AFTER your fire so that you are sure the ashes are out..

Matches

1. Have the wind at your back before lighting.
2. Make sure everyone else is an arms length away when striking a match.
3. Strike match away from you.
4. Have waterproof matches or use a refillable lighter in wet or damp weather.
5. Make waterproof matches by coating stick match ends with clear nail polish and allow them to dry completely before putting back into container.

Types of Fires

1. Collect wood of various sizes:

Tinder	smaller than finger, dry pine needles
Kindling	between finger and arm
Fuel	size of arm or thicker

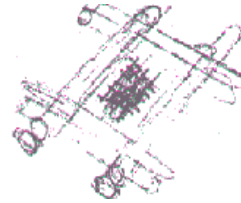
2. Teach A-frame, teepee or log cabin fire. Use a firestarter. Teach other fire building methods, or a combination of these, if your girls are more advanced. Demonstrate how to light the fire, allow girls to practice lighting the fire until they are ready to do it themselves.



A-Frame



Teepee



Log Cabin

To use the Fire Spirit Story, you would make a teepee fire within a log cabin fire. See next page for details.

Putting out a Fire



1. Let the fire die down until only ashes are left. This should not be a problem if you only built a fire big enough for your needs.



2. Stir the ashes with the shovel. Sprinkle water on ashes. Sprinkle dirt too. Stir again and repeat until no more heat is felt with your hand above the coals.



3. Clean up the fire circle before leaving on your last day of camp, there should be no warm coals left.

Campfire Program Ideas

The Glow of Friendship

Of friendship in our hearts! Now the fading camp fire light
Says it's time to say goodnight
All the fun we've had today
Will soon belong to yesterday.
But though the fire is dwindling low,
Though the flame to embers go,
We will ever keep the glow

Camp Friends

What is the tie that binds us
Friends of the long, long trail?
Just this:
We have shared the weather,
We have slumbered side by side
And friends who have camped together
Can never again divide.

The Story of the Fire Spirit

Long ago when only Native Americans lived in this land of ours, there was a Little Fire Spirit who lived with the Indians and gave them the spark to kindle their fires. He had been sent to dwell, on the earth by the Great Spirit to whom they prayed, as we pray in our places of worship today. Now this little Fire Spirit decided that he would like to have a place of his own in which to live, so first he gathered some nice, soft, dry grass for a bed. Then after he had made his bed, he gathered many very tiny twigs and built over his bed a teepee just like the ones in which the people lived. He was careful to see which way the wind was blowing and made the door into his teepee on that side so he would have a breeze to cool him off. (Fire Spirits are so warm, you know.)

After the teepee was built and the day's work of fire lighting was done, the Little Fire Spirit decided to go hunting and off he went into the woods.

While he was gone the settlers came in a ship from far across the sea and the first thing they did was search for a place to live. When they found the lovely hilltop where the Little Fire Spirit had built his teepee, they thought it a perfect place for their cabin. Finding no one in the teepee, they gathered logs (kindling size wood) and built a cabin right around the teepee. They even covered it on top with a log roof.

When the poor Little Fire Spirit returned from his hunting trip he didn't have a place to live. Sadly he looked at the sky and said, "Oh, Great Spirit, what should I do?" The Great Spirit looked down on his little one and said, "Now that the settlers have come with their flint it isn't necessary for you to live on the earth any longer, so go into your teepee, lie down on your bed and I will bring you to live with me."

Now, when a match is lit and touched to the dry grass through the teepee door, the first little puff of white smoke which rises before the flame begins is the Little Fire Spirit going up to Heaven.

This story can be told to your girls as they learn to build a teepee fire with a log cabin around it. As you read the story you will be able to visualize how it may be used effectively. For instance when the Little Fire Spirit gathers dry grass and tiny twigs for his house, you can at the same time demonstrate the method of building the foundation to a teepee fire.