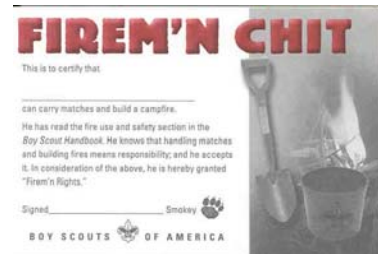


Firem'n Chit Training



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
- ✦ **Do NOT throw aerosol cans, or any other hazardous items in the fire.** They can explode and injure others.

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

Using a camping stove

- ✦ There are two types of common fuel for camping stoves
- ✦ White gas (Coleman fuel)
- ✦ Propane

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

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 or poking the fire
- ✦ More than one person attending the fire

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) can be a lifesaver when things get wet
- ✦ Making fire starters (lint & wax) ahead of a trip saves time starting your fire on the trip
- ✦ Never take tinder or fuel from a live tree
- ✦ Know how and when to light a match (be 100% ready *before* lighting the match)

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 to
- ✦ **Be Conservation-Minded.**