

Fire Building Badge



The Fire Safety badge must be earned in order for a Frontier Girl to build, tend, extinguish, or cook over an open flame. Frontier Girls need to earn the Fire Building badge before being allowed to start a fire.

This badge must be earned again every time a Frontier Girl graduates to a new level in order to review the information..

Before building a fire, check all local rules and regulations regarding where and when you may build an open flame fire. Many campgrounds no longer allow open flame fires and certain areas outlaw them during the driest parts of the year.

This badge is not available to Otters

Dolphins, Butterflies, and Eagles - Do all requirements - Adult supervision is required at all times when a fire is lit.

_____ 1. Earn the Fire Safety Badge for your level.

_____ 2. Know the 3 types of fuel used to start a wood fire.

Tinder - This can be any thin material that burns quickly when touched with a match. Tinder can consist of natural materials such as dried grass, small twigs, or dry leaves, or it may be man made such as crumpled up newspaper or homemade fire starters. Make sure that what every you choose has enough body to burn long enough to catch the kindling on fire. Dry leaves and grass burn very quickly and will not work well unless tied into tight bundles.

Kindling - This is the next size and should graduate from twigs just a little bigger than tinder to pieces as thick as your thumb or even a little thicker. Make sure that kindling is dry (it should snap when you break it) or it will not light.

Fuel - Fuel is the thick pieces of wood that keep a fire going. They should range from small branches to logs. The amount of fuel needed depends upon how long you wish to keep the fire going.

Find out why you should avoid wood that is wet, damp or green, or wood that has vines or ants on it. Be able to discuss why these types of wood are unsafe to burn.

_____ 3. Before building a fire, make sure you have a bucket of water and shovel nearby. You may need to smother the fire with dirt, or stir wet coals when you put it out. Also make sure that your fire site has been cleared and is safe. Make sure you follow all the Fire Safety rules you learned in the Fire Safety Badge. If you are starting your fire in a fire place or wood burning stove, make sure that the draft in the chimney is open and there is a screen to place over the front to prevent sparks from jumping out onto clothing or rugs. Do not start a fire outside during air-pollution alerts, high winds, or very dry conditions.

_____ 4. Have an adult show you the proper way to strike both book matches and stick matches. Also have an adult show you how to properly use a lighter designed for lighting candles and fires. Demonstrate what you have learned.

_____ 5. Learn to build each of the following types of fires and what each variety is used for.

- A.) Teepee - Good for for general purpose fires
- B.) Log Cabin - Good for cooking
- C.) Trench Fire - good to conserve heat and fuel. Used mostly in hot or windy weather.

_____6. Know at least 3 ways to plan for wet weather fire building

- tarp
- A.) Before rain begins, gather enough tinder and kindling for several fires and store it under a tarp or edge of your tent.
 - B.) Keep a supply of tinder in a plastic bag.
 - C.) Split wet sticks and logs with an ax. The wood inside should be dry.
 - D.) Keep matches safe from dampness by carrying them in a plastic container with a tight lid.
 - E.) A butane lighter will give you a flame in even the wettest weather. Store it away from heat.

_____7. . Learn how to properly tend a fire.

- A.) Fires should be kept as small as possible and still be useful.
- B.) When adding fuel to a wood fire, slowly add one piece at a time to the center of the fire. Leave air spaces and only use the amount of fuel that you need. NEVER toss, throw, or drop fuel into a fire as it may throw sparks back up at you or others.
- C.) If you are in charge of tending a fire, never leave it until someone else comes to take their turn.
- D.) If a spark lands outside your fire circle, or a coal drops out of a camp grill, quickly sprinkle it with water. A spark should go out quickly, but a coal will remain hot until thoroughly soaked and crushed.

_____8. Learn how to properly extinguish a fire.

- A.) Let the fire die down until only ashes are left.
- B.) Using a long stick or shovel, stir the ashes, sprinkle them with water and then stir again. Repeat this process until there is no gray ashes left and the fire bed is cool. (Check this by placing a hand directly above the ashes. If you feel warmth, the fire is not out yet.) Never pour water directly onto a fire as it can cause hot steam and rock explosions.
- C.) Use a shovel to remove the ashes. Ask the campsite manager where you should dispose of them. Never place ashes in a trash bin or anywhere else until you are sure that all coals have been thoroughly extinguished.
- D.) Never bury a fire with sand or dirt as it can insulate the coals and keep them hot for hours or even days.