

10 CAMPFIRE LAYS

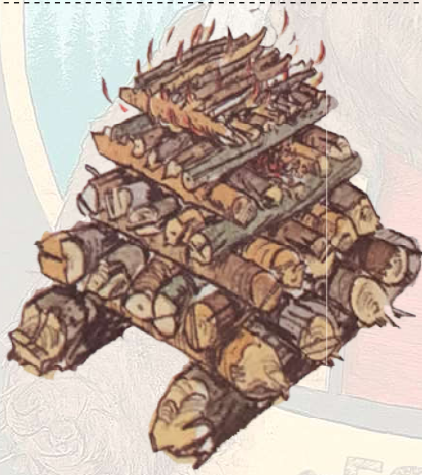
YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW TO BUILD

Non-Cooking Fires



Teepee Fire

The Teepee Fire lay is probably the most common fire lay you will see used. As you will see in the descriptions of other fire lays, the teepee fire lay is often used to start other fires. It burns easiest and fastest, radiating large amounts of heat in all directions. Great for keeping a larger area warm though you will burn through your wood much faster.



Log Cabin Fire

The Log Cabin fire lay is the ideal entertainment fire for a campsite. It consists of crisscrossing firewood pieces starting with the largest pieces at the bottom and the smallest pieces near the top. You light this fire at the top where the smallest pieces are found. This helps to slow the consumption of the vast amounts of wood used to make the fire. As the upper layers are consumed, the hot coals fall onto and ignite the lower layers keeping the fire going.

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Reflector Fire

The Reflector fire lay is perfect for keeping directional heat on a cold campout. The reflector, built of rocks or large logs, helps to keep the fire away from heat sensitive areas while directing the heat where you want it most. You will want to use a teepee fire as the main source of heat to use with the reflector. Keep in mind, building your reflector from wood runs the likely risk of burning this wood as well.



Star Fire

You start this Star fire with a teepee fire lay. Placing four or five logs around it like spokes in a wheel, you keep the burning ends slightly raised on a stick. As the logs burn, you push them farther into the fire. This helps slow the consumption of your firewood but requires a good deal of maintenance to prevent it from going out.



Vigil Fire

The Vigil fire is a fire lay that makes good use of limited resources. Start off by building and igniting a small teepee fire. Roll two logs, on opposite sides from one another, close to the fire. Raise them off the ground on a couple of sticks for airflow. Place a third log on top, also supported on a couple of sticks for airflow. The smaller fire will burn near and under the larger logs and, due to the lay of larger logs, contain the heat to help ignite the larger pieces before the smaller fire burns out. A great way to also dry wet or green wood.

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Cooking Fires



Three-Point Fire

The Three-point fire is the simplest fireplace for a single pot or pan. Just place three rocks of even size in height around the fire lay. If you don't have rocks, try using three metal tent pegs at an even height above ground. The rocks or tent pegs will keep your pot or pan suspended above the fire. Avoid using sandstone, limestone, pumice, gravel, or river rocks because of their porous nature and tendency to hold water; they may explode when heated.



Rock Fire

With the Rock fire, like the three-point fire, you are going to build a platform to set your cookware on using two rows of rocks with your fire in between. Be sure to set the rocks close enough together to support your pots. Avoid using sandstone, limestone, pumice, gravel, and river rocks because of their porous nature and tendency to hold water; they may explode when heated.

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Hunter's Fire

Like the rock fire, you can build the Hunter's fire if you have larger logs to use as the base rather than rocks. Place two of them close enough together to support your utensils. Since the fire will consume your base logs, you will have to replace them from time to time.



Trench Fire

To build the Trench fire, start by marking off the trench with your camp spade wide enough to allow a decent fire and airflow. Removed sod should be set aside for replacing after the fire has been extinguished to minimize impact. Be sure to widen the windward end to catch airflow as the trench fire is naturally restrictive. NOTE: This fire does not follow Leave No Trace principles. Follow all park rules and regulations when building this fire lay.



Inverted Teepee Fire

Start by digging a round hole larger in diameter than your pot. Depth is up to you though you don't need to have a very deep hole. Six to twelve inches is adequate for most cases. Next build a teepee fire, inverted, using the upper edge of the hole as your teepee base. Place your smaller materials at the bottom of the inverted teepee to ignite. Place your pot on top though watch the pot as the fire burns so you don't lose your dinner!