

# BSA Troop 1018

## Firem'n Chit Lesson Plan

Purpose: This certification grants a Scout the right to carry matches and build campfires.

- General information
  - o Sometimes it's better to use a stove than to build a fire
  - o Fires leave scars with long lasting effects
- Before starting a fire:
  - o 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.
  - o Do not build a fire when conditions are too dry
  - o 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)
  - o Always ensure a jug of water and/or a shovel is available by the fire
- Clearing the area:
  - o All flammable vegetation must be cleared at least 5 feet in all directions from a fire
  - o Check above the fire ring to make sure there's no flammable vegetation
- Starting the fire:
  - o NEVER use flammable liquids (e.g. gasoline) to start a fire
  - o It's OK to use fire starter sticks
  - o It's OK to use a butane lighter, but store the lighter out of the sun
  - o Start with small, easily burnable material (tinder), move up to larger sticks (kindling), then to larger pieces of wood (fuel)
- Maintaining the fire
  - o Only one person in charge of the fire at a time
  - o Fire is attended at *all* times
  - o No playing with the fire – do not poke at the fire; stay out of the fire ring
- Putting out the fire
  - o First, spread the coals
  - o Then sprinkle water on the fire to begin to cool it (steam can cause severe burns)
  - o Finally, apply water liberally until the fire is “dead out” – cool to the touch
  - o If water is scarce, use sand or dirt to put out the fire
- After you're done
  - o Dig out ashes and dispose of properly (throw away, spread out)
  - o Rocks that were used to form a fire circle should be turned over and put back
- Common problems & misconceptions
  - o If a fire “looks” like it's out (no smoke), it's really out
  - o Leaving the fire unattended for “just a few minutes”
  - o Playing around the fire
  - o More than one person attending the fire

- Poking the fire
- Using a camping stove
  - There are two types of common fuel for camping stoves
  - White gas (Coleman fuel)
  - Propane
  - In Troop 1018, all cooking is done on propane stoves – only exception is backpacking stoves – when using these an adult will ALWAYS monitor filling the stove
  - 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
- 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)
  - Making fire starter (lent & wax)
  - Never take tinder or fuel from a live tree
  - How to light a match (be 100% ready *before* lighting the match)
  - Lighting

### **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

**Be Conservation-Minded.**