

FIRE

AN INSTANT MEETING FOR GUIDES FROM THE BC CAMPING COMMITTEE

Meeting Plan

- 5-10 min: Gathering: Campfire Crossword
- 5-10 min: Guide Opening
- 10-15 min: Opening Discussion: Fire Safety & Find the Flame
- 30 min: Round Robin (rotate through stations)
Uber Match Fire Starter
Egg Carton Dryer Lint Fire Starter
Waterproof Matches
- 10 min: Edible Campfire
- 10-15 min: Fire Lighting Pantomime
- 30 min: Campfire Ceremony
- 5 min: Guide Closing

120 minute meeting. Approximate activity times shown.

Program Connections

You And Others: Learn About Safety

6. Activity of choice.

Discovering You: Discover Your Creativity

5. Charades.

Related Camping Badges

Camp-Out, Basic Camper

Related Interest Badges

Campfire Leading, Canadian Guiding, Fire Safety, Outdoor Cooking, Recycling, Singing, World Guiding

Meeting Supplies

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> campfire crossword | <input type="checkbox"/> nail polish | <input type="checkbox"/> candy corn & toothpicks or pretzel sticks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pens/pencils | <input type="checkbox"/> waterproof containers (pill bottle) | <input type="checkbox"/> candy hearts or dried cranberries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> large (33cm x 15 cm) red/orange felt flame | <input type="checkbox"/> napkins | <input type="checkbox"/> bite sized Tootsie Rolls or mini carrot sticks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> whistle | <input type="checkbox"/> Skittles or Cheerios | <input type="checkbox"/> Big Foot candies or radishes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> strike anywhere matches | <input type="checkbox"/> blue whale candies or Dixie cups with water | <input type="checkbox"/> mini marshmallows & toothpick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cotton balls | <input type="checkbox"/> spoons | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Making cards (multiple copies) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> paraffin (or other) wax | <input type="checkbox"/> hair elastics | <input type="checkbox"/> campfire planning tool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> something to melt the wax in (old coffee can) | <input type="checkbox"/> large marshmallows | <input type="checkbox"/> songbooks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> stove to melt wax over | <input type="checkbox"/> Hickory Sticks or thin pieces of green pepper | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> aluminum foil | <input type="checkbox"/> chocolate "kisses" or raisins | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> string (optional) | <input type="checkbox"/> shoestring licorice or shredded coconut | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cardboard egg cartons | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dryer lint | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wax or parchment paper | | |

Gathering: Campfire Crossword

Answers to the crossword are as follows:

Across

2. Logs. - FUEL
4. Skinny pieces of wood to help light your campfire. - TINDER
5. A shape to pile kindling in to start your fire. - TEEPEE
6. Helps start your campfire. - FIRESTARTER
10. Something you roast on a campfire. - MARSHMALLOW
11. What you don't do around a campfire. - PLAY

Down

1. What you need to have for your fire (so that you are safe). - RESPECT
3. Wood about the width of a pencil and 3-8 inches long. - KINDLING
7. Clear your area around the fire so these don't spread the fire. - SPARKS
8. How to strike a match (3 words). - AWAY FROM YOU
9. What you should have near your campfire. - WATER

Supplies

- campfire crosswords
- pens/pencils

Opening Discussion

Fire Safety

Here are some rules and regulations that you can discuss with you girls to help prepare them to be safe around a fire.

- RESPECT THE FIRE!
- No running or playing around the fire.
- No one touches, pokes or adds wood to the fire unless they are the designated fire keeps, this could be a leader or a few of older girls.
- Never leave a campfire unattended.
- Talk about why you should have a water and a sand bucket as well as a shovel near your fire.
- Talk about where is the best place to place a fire; away from trees with low branches, shrubs, dry grass and leaves. At least 25 feet from all structures. Not on bedrock as some rocks can explode.
- Discuss the size the fire should be.
- Discuss appropriate clothing; no loose clothing, hats are fine but no dangling hat crafts, hair tied back, nylon is not smart around a fire.
- Keep fires small and don't let them get out of hand.
- Have your firewood stacked away from the fire and up wind.
- After lightening your fire what should you do with your match.
- Do not bury your coals, they can smolder and start to burn again.

Find the Flame

Source: *Active Living Toolbox for the Guide Program.*
Girl Guides of Canada, July 1996.

This game is a practice fire drill. Establish a route for leaving a building in an emergency, and a place to meet together away from the building or campsite. Decide on a signal that will be used in case of an emergency - for

Supplies

- large (33cm x 15 cm) red/orange felt flame
- whistle

example, a whistle in a conspicuous spot - so that any person can find it easily. Tell everyone where the whistle is stored.

Show everyone what the felt flame looks like. Explain that at some point in the meeting, the flame will be hidden. If anyone spots the flame, at any time, they go and blow the whistle. Everyone then must evacuate the area and meet at the designated place.

At some point during the meeting, a Guider hides the flame somewhere, but leaves a tiny piece showing.

Uber Match Fire Starter

Photo credit: Susan Thesen.

An Uber Match will burn for about 5 minutes, produces a larger flame than a match does on its own, and gives off more heat.

Full instructions with step by step photographs on how to make Uber Match fire starters can be found at:

<http://practicalprimitive.com/skillofthemonth/ubermatch.html>
or <http://survivalife.com/2014/06/08/how-to-make-homemade-super-uber-match-fire-starters/>

Please be careful with the wax, you don't want it to overheat; make sure the girls are supervised while working with the wax, and make sure you use the strike anywhere matches.

Directions

1. Begin by melting wax in an old coffee can over low heat. Continue with the remaining instructions while the wax melts.
2. Carefully unroll a cotton ball.
3. Wrap the cotton around one match, then add additional matches one by one so that they are all wrapped completely in cotton. Use 4-6 matches total. You need to have an airspace between the matches. Note that you need to use the "strike anywhere" matches.
4. (optional) Tie a piece of string around the match bundle. This will help for dipping the bundle in the wax.
5. Dip the entire into the melted wax. Turn it to make sure that everything is coated in wax.
6. Remove the bundle from the wax and set it aside (on aluminum foil) to harden.

Supplies

- strike anywhere matches
- cotton balls
- paraffin (or other) wax
- something to melt the wax in (old coffee can)
- stove to melt wax over
- aluminum foil
- string (optional)



Egg Carton Dryer Lint Fire Starter

Photo credit: Megan Halston.

These fire starters are made using supplies you probably already have at your house, so are very inexpensive to make!

As always, please be careful with the wax, you don't want it to overheat; make sure the girls are supervised while working with the wax.

Directions

1. Begin by melting wax in an old coffee can over low heat. Continue with the remaining instructions while the wax melts.
2. Fill the egg carton cups about $\frac{3}{4}$ full with dryer lint. Fluff the lint a bit so that the wax can saturate it.
3. Place the egg carton onto wax or parchment paper to catch any drips or leakage.
4. Pour the melted wax over the lint. Make sure you use enough wax to saturate the lint and to start to absorb into the egg carton itself.
5. Allow the wax to cool and harden.
6. Tear or cut the cups apart for individual use.

Supplies

- cardboard egg carton (not Styrofoam or plastic)
- dryer lint
- paraffin (or other) wax
- something to melt the wax in (old coffee can)
- stove to melt wax over
- wax or parchment paper



Waterproof Matches

Photo credit: Susan Thesen.

It is always smart to have waterproof matches with you along with your fire starters when you go out on the trails. Here are two very simple ways of waterproofing matches. Make sure you use the strike anywhere wooden matches and store them in a waterproof container like an old pill container.



Directions

1. Method one: dip the tips of the matches in the melted wax. Set on wax or parchment paper to cool and harden.
2. Method two: dip the tips of the matches into nail polish. Hold the matches for a few seconds to dry a bit before placing them down on the edge of a table with the tips hanging over the edge so they can completely dry without sticking to anything. (Place wax or parchment paper below them to catch any drips).
3. Store dry matches in a waterproof container, such as an old pill bottle.

Supplies

- strike anywhere matches
- nail polish
- paraffin (or other) wax
- something to melt the wax in (old coffee can)
- stove to melt wax over
- wax or parchment paper
- waterproof container (pill bottle)



Edible Campfire

Food options are given for each step in building the edible campfire. Use the suggestions here or modify your ingredients to suit availability or girls' tastes, while still maintaining suitability for what the item represents.

Directions

1. When we make a campfire, we need a clear area free of dried grass and stick.
Please lay out your napkin, which will be your clearing.
2. And we like to use an established fire pit.
Make a fire ring with your [Skittles/Cheerios].
3. Do we have the right safety equipment on hand? What do you think they should have? (i.e. water and shovel) What would these be for? (i.e. water to put out the fire, shovel to put dirt on the fire to help put it out).
Set your [blue whale/Dixie cup with water] and the spoon beside your campfire to represent water and a shovel.
4. Now you will need to pull back your hair. Can anyone tell me why?
Hand out elastics to anyone who doesn't have their hair back that should.
5. You will also need air for your fire.
Place your large marshmallow by your fire to represent air.
6. A good campfire needs kindling - small sticks that will light easily but keep burning for a while.
Build an A frame or long cabin in your fire pit with [Hickory Sticks/thin pieces of green peppers].
7. Next we need fire starter. Fire starter can be many things from special stuff you purchase at a store, newspaper or the cheapest way to go is lint from your clothes drier.
Use your [chocolate kiss/raisins] as fire starter and lay them in your "A" frame or log cabin. (If using raisins, don't get your dried cranberries mixed up with your raisins.)
8. And we need tinder – pieces of wood that are smaller than the kindling that will catch fire easily.
Use your [cut up pieces of shoestring licorice/coconut] as your tinder and lay in your fire.
9. Now we are ready to light our fire. What is the best way to light a match? (i.e. Do you light the match towards you or away from you?)
Use the [candy corn stuck on a toothpick/thin pretzel stick] as a match and light your fire. Don't throw it away you don't want to catch anything else on fire.
10. Watch your fire start.
Lay your [candy hearts/dried cranberries] in your fire to represent the flames.
11. Now that the fire is going, you want to carefully add larger logs in as these will burn longer and make coals.
You can now add your [bite sized Tootsie Rolls/carrot sticks] to the fire.
12. Your fire now has coals.
Add the [Big Foot candy/radish] to your fire to represent coals.
13. You can now roast marshmallows.
Use your toothpick to roast the small marshmallows.

Supplies (per girl)

- napkin
- Skittles or Cheerios
- blue whale candy or Dixie cup with water
- spoon
- hair elastic
- large marshmallow
- Hickory Sticks or thin pieces of green pepper
- chocolate "kiss" or raisins
- shoestring licorice or shredded coconut
- candy corn & toothpick or pretzel stick
- candy hearts or dried cranberries
- bite sized Tootsie Rolls or mini carrot sticks
- Big Foot candy or radish
- mini marshmallow & toothpick

Fire Making Pantomime

Using the included cards, have the girls act out the steps of building a campfire.

There are a several ways you could use these cards. Two options are given here.

Supplies

- fire making cards

Directions (Option 1)

1. Divide the girls into patrols and give each patrol a set of cards.
2. Have the girls take turns randomly drawing cards and acting out what is on the card while the other girls in her patrol guess what she is doing.
3. When the girls have completed acting out all the cards, they put them in what they think is the right order for building a campfire.
4. After all patrols are finished, a Guider reads out the steps in order (below).

Directions (Option 2)

1. Print two copies of the cards (this will work for 24 or more girls). If you have less than 24 girls in your group, remove a couple of cards (i.e. you could remove chop wood, collect tinder/kindling/logs, or whatever cards you feel are not absolutely necessary for your group to act out). Make sure that there are two girls for every action – if you have an odd number of girls, have a Guider step in to create an even number. If you have more than 24 girls, you can add duplicates of some of the cards (i.e. have 4 “add tinder/kindling/logs to the fire”). Make sure you have either 2 or 4 of the cards so that girls always end up with a partner.
2. Distribute the cards to the girls. They cannot show their cards to anyone else.
3. The girls then start silently acting out their action, mingling in the room to find someone else who is performing a similar action.
4. When girls find a partner doing the same thing they are doing, the two girls sit down together and wait until all girls have found their partner.
5. When all the girls are sitting, a Guider reads out the steps of building a campfire. As she reads, each set of girls stands up and acts out their part.
 1. Choose a campfire site (search).
 2. Collect fuel (tinder/kindling/logs).
 3. Chop wood.
 4. Prepare the fire site (sweep the site).
 5. Fetch a bucket of water and a shovel to place next to the campfire.
 6. Make a fire circle with rocks.
 7. Lay the fire – pile tinder, then place kindling and logs into a campfire shape (i.e. teepee or log cabin).
 8. Secure hair in a ponytail.
 9. Light the fire with a match – be calm, light the match away from you – then discard the match into the fire.
 10. Blow gently on the base of the fire.
 11. Maintain the fire (add tinder/kindling/logs).
 12. Put the fire out: flatten the fire with a stick, then carefully pour water & shovel dirt on the fire.

Campfire Ceremony

One purpose of building a campfire is to hold a campfire ceremony!

The Arts To Go – Music resource on the BC Girl Guides website includes several theme suggestions for campfires. You can follow one of the examples in the resource, or create your own campfire, either as a full group, or split into patrols and have each patrol create a campfire plan.

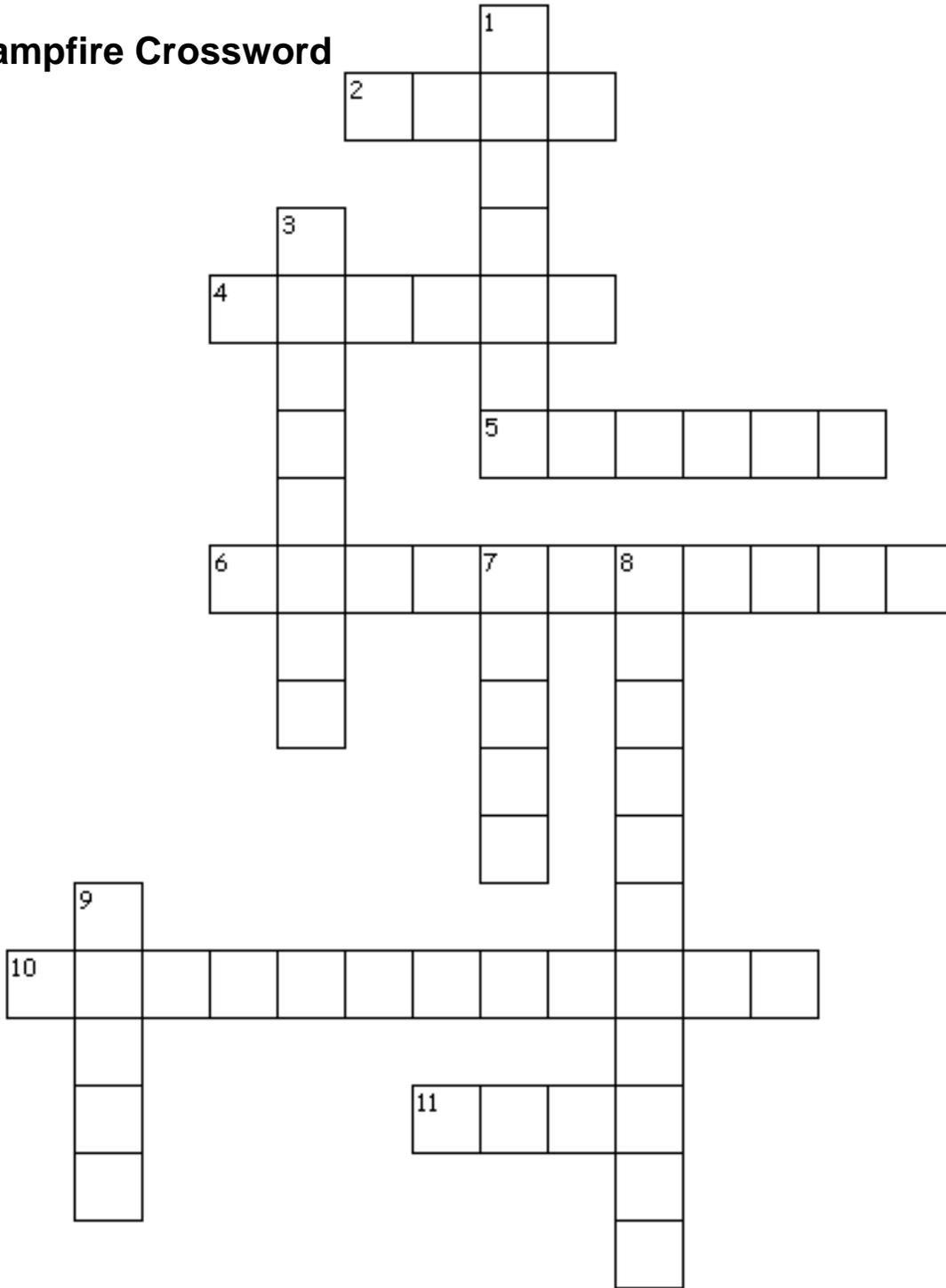
Arts to Go – Music can be found at:

<http://bc-girlguides.org/Documents/BC/program/Arts%20to%20Go%20-%20Music.pdf>

Supplies (per girl)

- campfire planning tool
- pens/pencils
- songbooks

Campfire Crossword



Across

- 2. Logs.
- 4. Skinny pieces of wood to help light your campfire.
- 5. A shape to pile kindling in to start your fire
- 6. Helps start your campfire.
- 10. Something you roast on a campfire.
- 11. What you don't do around a campfire.

Down

- 1. What you need to have for your fire (so that you are safe).
- 3. Wood about the width of a pencil and 3-8 inches long.
- 7. Clear your area around the fire so these don't spread the fire.
- 8. How to strike a match (3 words).
- 9. What you should have near your campfire.

Fire Making Cards

Choose a campfire site (search).	Collect fuel (tinder / kindling / logs).	Chop wood.
Prepare the fire site (sweep the site).	Fetch a bucket of water and a shovel to place next to the campfire.	Make a fire circle with rocks.
Lay the fire - pile tinder, then place kindling and logs into a campfire shape (i.e. teepee or log cabin).	Secure hair in a ponytail.	Light the fire with a match - be calm, light the match away from you - then discard the match into the fire.
Blow gently on the base of the fire.	Maintain the fire (add tinder / kindling / logs).	Put the fire out: flatten the fire with a stick, then carefully pour water & shovel dirt on the fire.

Campfire Planning Tool

Action

Games, Yells, Skits, Creative Stories

Fun & Nonsense

Noisy, active songs, chants,
build excitement

Joyful

Calmer, fun songs, slowing down,
Getting quieter

Light-Hearted

Rounds, part songs, action or
story songs

Reflective

Thought provoking quieter songs
that make you think

New

If you wish to teach a new song,
do it early in the campfire

Peaceful

Quiet, spiritual songs

Unifying

Well-known songs where
everyone can participate

Vesper

A final thought: song or reading

Opening

Fire songs, thought, poem or
reading on your theme

Taps/Closing

Theme

Having a theme will connect your songs and
make things flow better.

