

Camp Alaska Shelters

Building a 2-Man Lean-to or Tent-Style Shelter

Materials Needed (per 2-person team):

- 1). (1) - 12' x 20' tarp or piece of heavy duty plastic
- 2). (2) - 25' lengths of cord or rope
- 3). (8) - 6' lengths of twine or rope
- 4). (8) - stones, acorns, or other hard, round, small objects.
(you may be able to find them @ your site)
- 5). (2) - 8' x 6' tarps or ground cloths

Construction Procedures:

- 1). Find a site between (2) trees, or make (2) 3' - 4' long poles. Locate the shelter entry away from the prevailing winds.
- 2). Clear the ground of snow, branches, etc. as much as possible.
- 3). Tie twine or rope between trees or poles about 3' - 4' off the ground, or lash a long pole to trees at that height.
- 4). Remove as much snow as possible from the area you plan to set up a shelter.
- 5). Spread several inches of leaves, straw, or other insulation material (if available) on the ground under tent floor area.
- 6). Lay your shelter tarp or plastic on the ground over the insulation, fold it over the twine or pole, and fold it again to end on top of itself on the ground to make it resemble a standard tent shape.
- 7). Use acorns/stones and twine with stakes at the corners, or place logs where needed to secure and seal tent along the ground. Leave excess shelter material at each end for folding in to close it up.
- 8). Pile snow or logs around three sides to seal the bottom of the shelter.

Demonstrations/Training/Discussions:

- 1). Show how to use stones or acorns to tie twine to tarps or plastic. Also show how to use logs, rocks, or snow to seal along the ground if the ground is too frozen to use stakes.
- 2). Have (2) boys hold twine or rope and show how to fold the plastic wrap to make a tent, then have boys attach ropes in corners.
- 3). Explain the importance of having insulation underneath and to have the entrance to the shelter out of the wind.
- 4). Explain that site selection is very important: avoid snow packs/dead limbs in trees; use natural wind breaks or build in low areas.
- 5). Show scale models of different shelter designs.
- 6). Smaller shelters are better - there is less volume to heat up with your body.
- 7). Make sure the sides are sloped and the top is not flat - otherwise, if it snows heavy or rains, it can accumulate on the top and collapse your shelter.

Building Winter Fires

Materials Needed:

- 1). Tinder in small zip-lock bag.
- 2). Adequate kindling & fuel stockpiled to keep the fire going.
- 3). (6) fire starters, fuzz sticks, etc.
- 4). Waterproofed matches, matches in a waterproof holder, spark stick, or small butane lighter.

Building Fires:

- 1). Find a suitable site away from the tents, etc., with no overhead snow packs in the trees.
- 2). Clear the ground of snow, dead leaves, branches, etc. in a 10' diameter circle. Build fire on top of a log fire lay if necessary.
- 3). Gather dry kindling and fuel. Get (3) times the amount of fire building materials you think you will need.
- 4). Use the tinder and matches you brought to start the fire. Have other Scouts block the wind with their bodies, with ponchos or with tarps as required.
- 5). Place wet fuel near the fire to allow it to dry. Cover dry fuel with plastic or tarps to keep it dry during snow or rain.
- 6). Keep shovels, water, sand, or a bucket of snow nearby for safety.
- 7). Extinguish the fire and dispose of ashes in the proper manner.

Demonstrations/Discussions:

- 1). Show how to keep tinder in a plastic zip lock bag.
- 2). Show a “fuzz stick” and how to make one.
- 3). Discuss where to find dry tinder, kindling, and fuel in wet or snowy areas.
- 4). Demonstrate how to build a log fire lay to build fires on packed snow or ice.
- 5). Explain the importance of selecting fire building sites out of the direct wind and how teams can work together to block the wind.
- 6). Explain why fires, stoves, gas/propane/butane lanterns, candles, or matches are not to be lit or burned in tents or shelters.
- 7). Demonstrate how to make paraffin coated fire starters.