

Campfire Safety



As described in March 2025 issue of Scout Life magazine on page 20 (a highlight of Camp Squanto was also featured on page 16, if you missed it), the article: “Put it out cold” reminds us that people cause 80% of wildfires, some from unattended campfires.

With the spring starting off with lower-than-normal precipitation levels in most of Massachusetts, all scouts are reminded of fire safety.

Check with the local fire department, land management, or camp rangers to see if open fires are allowed.

Have firefighting tools and water available BEFORE lighting camp or cooking fires in case of emergencies.

Scouting America prohibits the use of pyrotechnics, accelerants, or chemical fire starters.

Adapt the rule: *“Once sticks touch flames, they belong in the fire.”*

Never leave fires unattended.

Plan on fires burning down to small coals, preferably ash.

To extinguish fires, add water onto the embers and stir completely. Continue adding water and stirring until all embers are wet and cold to the touch.

The article advises, if water supplies are limited, sand or dirt can be added in a similar way, but not nearly as reliably.

As Smokey Bear says, “only you can prevent forest fires.”