



BSA SAFETY MOMENT

BEHAVIOR AROUND CAMPFIRES

SUMMARY

Campfires are a powerful part of the outdoor experience. They can be lively with laughter, storytelling, and fellowship. The campfire can also be a time of reflection, learning, and great peace. Safe behavior around a campfire ensures a good time can be had by all while mitigating the inherent danger of the fire. Here are some helpful reminders on behavior that can make your next campfire a positive and safe experience.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Handbooks for each program have useful tips for campfires.

Smart behaviors around a campfire

- Fires are useful, but they can be dangerous. Always respect a fire by showing smart behaviors.
- Stay outside of the campfire ring. Do not touch any part of the fire ring once the fire has been lit.
- Don't run, jump, or play around campfires. Understand that fires can cause injuries.
- "Once it's in, it stays in." Don't pull anything out of the campfire.

Maintain a safe campfire and campsite

- Always consider the campfire's surroundings. Ensure the campfire is the appropriate distance between the seating areas and tents.
- Verify federal and local regulations regarding fire bans and policies.

Cooking or roasting over a campfire

- Never swing, flick, or throw hot or burning food. If your food burns or catches fire, remain calm.
- Maintain a safe distance while cooking. Use a skewer long enough to keep your body outside the fire ring or containment area.
- Be careful with sharp skewers and keep the tip pointed in a safe direction. In the dark, others may not see the skewer. Prevent injury to others by being responsible. Maintain spacing with others around the fire.

RESOURCES

- *Campfire Safety*: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/camp-fire-safety/>
- *Guide to Safe Scouting*: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/toc/
- *Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities*: filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-685.pdf
- *Storing, Handling, and Using Chemical Fuels and Equipment*: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss06/
- *Leave No Trace*: www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/resources/leave-no-trace/
- Unit Fireguard Plan Chart: www.scoutshop.org/unit-fireguard-plan-chart-616620.html