



Lighting a fire – safely and step by step

AT A GLANCE



Place

Outdoors at a permitted fireplace



Key idea

Preparing, lighting, tending and putting out a small fire safely



Effort

Materials 15 min · Preparation 20 min



90 minutes



teams of 3–4



8–12 years



only with a leader



Materials

- ☐ dry wood in three sizes: tinder (dry grass, birch bark), kindling (pencil-thin), fuel wood (thumb-thick)
- ☐ matches (one box per team)
- ☐ two buckets of water and a shovel
- ☐ stones for a fire ring if there is no fixed fireplace
- ☐ optional: dough for campfire bread at the end



Schedule

0–15'

Fire rules – Learn the fire rules together: check the spot, water ready, never alone, keep it small, put it out completely.

15–30'

Collecting wood – Teams collect tinder, kindling and fuel wood – only dry, dead wood from the ground.

30–60'

Building the fire – Build a teepee, light it, blow gently, add wood.

60–75'

Devotion – Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35): “Were not our hearts burning within us?” – Jesus can light a fire of enthusiasm in us.

75–90'

Putting it out – Pour on water, stir, pour on water again – only when everything is cold is the fire out.



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How it works – simply explained

- 1 Put a handful of tinder in the middle of the fire ring.
- 2 Stand the kindling over it like a small teepee and leave an opening towards the wind.
- 3 Light the tinder at the bottom on the windward side.
- 4 Blow gently and add first thin, then thicker wood.
- 5 Putting it out: water on, stir, water again – hold your hand over the ash to check for any warmth.

 **Example:** "Can you see how the fire needs air? If we put too much wood on at once, it goes out. Better piece by piece."

Safety

- Fires only in permitted places and only with a leader right there.
- Water to put it out is ready before the first match is struck.
- Tie back long hair, no synthetic jackets close to the fire.
- In dry weather, wind or forest fire warnings, no fire – just the theory indoors.

Variations

- Fire without matches: with a fire steel and birch bark.
- Competition: which team brings water in a tin to the boil first?

Something to think about

What are you "on fire" for – what really excites you?