

Royal Ambassador Newsletter – Council Fire

There is just something intriguing about a camp fire to a young boy.

So the next time you have a campout or lock in, consider adding a Council Fire to your event.

So here are some recommendations:

First Pray

- Pray for wisdom and knowledge in planning the event
- Pray that no child will be injured during the event
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will stir and direct each boy

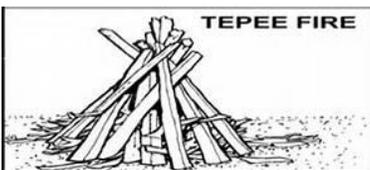
SecondSafety is paramount.

Take the normal precautions when having an outdoor fire, such as

- Spray the area for mosquitos before holding the event.
- Do not place the fire underneath a tree
- Clear the area of any debris that can catch on fire
- Have bucket of water handy along with a shovel to put out the fire
 - o NOTE: Do not pour water on a hot fire. It will create steam and burn you. Instead, sprinkle on the water until the fire is extinguished.
- Rope off the area at least 5' from the fire to keep the boys from getting too close.
- Do not allow the boys to throw items in the fire.
- Contact the local Fire Dept or Fire Marshall if in an Urban/Suburban environment where a neighbor might call in a fire.
- Know and share the address of the even location to all your leaders just in case someone has to call 911.

Third Select a fire

This is a good time to teach the boys the difference between Tinder, Kindling and Fuel. A Tepee style fire works great when using natural wood.



However, if you want to keep it simple and not worry about keeping the fire going. The Crisscross method with four to six fireplace logs purchased from the local grocery store works great. They will last a couple of hours and then burnout.



Fourth... Conduct a Council Fire

I like to break up the Counsel Fire into 5 Activities each led by a different leader.

- i. Open Mic. Boys are encouraged to come to the front and tell a clean joke or perform a skit (<http://www.macscouter.com/skits/bbskits.asp>). The purpose of this event is to allow the boys to participate and help teach them the skill of standing in front of people and talking to them. Introduce the Boys to various types of cheers for each speaker such as the alligator clap, Mosquito cheer, silent yell, watermelon cheer, Fireworks cheer, i.e. (http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Scout_Cheers and http://www.macscouter.com/campfire/CPB_pdf/Cheers.pdf)
- ii. Singing. Select Christian songs such as Sunday School and Bible School songs that are familiar to the boys. Having a leader that can play a guitar is a big help.
- iii. Funny Story told by a leader. <http://www.macscouter.com/Stories/>
- iv. Story with a Message. Now is the time to have the boys remain silent while a leader tells a message. MY absolute favorite Council Fire Message is about a mountain man and a snake. Put some effort in to trying to memorize the gist of the story and tell it like you were there witnessing it (please do NOT read the story). <http://www.floridarangers.com/resources/devotions/81-the-snake.html>
- v. Alter call. I am not going to tell you how to give an alter call, but I have observed that the most successful alter calls make the boys feel special and that they will not be ridiculed by their friends. So here are some ideas to consider:
 - o Explain to them what an alter call is about
 - o Explain Luke 15:10
 - o Tell them not to look around at their friend, but look right at you
 - o Tell them you are going to count to 3 and on 3, anyone who has not already accepted Christ and feels like they are ready to accept Jesus into their heart right now to jump up from where you are sitting run to (a designated safe spot where you have leaders awaiting). And when you do this, all you boys out there who have already accepted Christ, I want you to join the Angels in Heaven and applaud these boys.
 - o Make sure you have the Leaders take the names of the boys that do accept Christ to give to their respective Children's Ministry Leader and parents.
 - o But don't stop there,
 - o Now consider talking to the boys who have already accepted Christ, but need to recommit their lives to Christ and give them the opportunity to come forward as well.

Fifth Clean Up

Remember the old Boy Scout adage to leave a place in better condition when you leave than when you found it.

- Make sure you designate two people to put out the fire and clean up the event site after the boys leave.
- Carefully put out the fire. Remember: DO NOT pour water directly on a fire as you can easily get burned by the steam.

Do you want more information or ideas? Just contact your Regional RA Representative.