

LIGHTING A FIRE IN THE WILDERNESS

In the wild, once you have secured some shelter and a water supply, your next big concern will be building a fire. Fire will warm you, be good for cooking, purifying water, and ward off wild animals. So it is a necessary step to your survival and wellbeing. It might also get you spotted if you are lost and others are looking for you.

FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



EARN THIS NUGGET

- Light a fire with matches but nothing else, except what you can forage in the outdoors or woods.
- Select a safe place to light the fire. Make sure you have adult supervision.

LEVEL 3

PERIOD 7

TASK 1

1. First, you need to find kindling. Here is something to remember: A piece of wood does not burn on its own. It needs other burning wood for it to burn. So you can't just light a piece of wood. Start gathering dry grasses and leaves. Consider using a knife to cut off small branches and leaves, and split sticks to gain tinder. (Remember, how to build a bon fire? Same idea.)

2. Select a safe location for the fire. A dip is a good location. If the area is flat, surround it with rocks so the fire won't spread. Be sure the fire ring is clear of grass and twigs. Keep combustible materials away from your fire ring.

3. Next find sticks. You will want various sizes. It's better to have too many than too few. Remember, the first sticks really shouldn't be a whole lot thicker than the grass and they should be dry and brittle.

4. Start your fire, assuming you have matches, and drop the smallest pieces of tinder you can onto the flame piece by piece, getting progressively larger. Allow the fire to breath. Don't smother it by putting larger pieces on too fast.

5. Continue to build your fire, and continue to forage for wood that you can break and add to the blaze. Be sure to stay where you can see the fire.

