



Samoset Council, BSA

National Youth Leadership Training

2024 Conference

FIRESTARTERS

Better Fires and Your Success

Over the years at NorthWoods Challenge or NYLT we have noticed that many Scouts are challenged to build and maintain a sustainable cooking fire. Our staff has come to understand that many troops seldom cook over a wood fire anymore and use a variety of different fueled stoves. The troops may use wood as a cooking component on some trips but that is less all the time, especially when the 'Leave No Trace' program is considered. NYLT is a Leadership Skills course and while we teach many scout skills for immediate use, fire building is not one of them. We show scouts of variety of fire styles and their uses. Good fire building skills may be essential to them when an unforeseen event happens which require warmth and safety.

IN ORDER TO HAVE THE SCOUTS BE READY FOR ALL OF THE DAYS EVENTS,

This year we **REQUIRE** all Scouts to bring some homemade fire-starters to the course with you. Please research these, check your old Scout books [Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts], maybe your own troop library and go for it. As a patrol you will be building 14 fires to cook over during the week and sometimes the wood is wet or in short supply and the Scout in charge of fires changes every day so ... so unless you know all your patrol buddies have great fire building skills, You will need to do the following:

Samoset Council NYLT will require EACH SCOUT to bring 4 fire starters.

The Guidelines

A: No lighter fluid, gasoline, liquids, etc in these

B: Any items used must be burnable

C: No gunpowder, black powder or explosives of any kind [You will be sent home !]

D: You may use the following. Paper cups, egg cartons, cotton balls, Vaseline / petroleum jelly, shredded paper, match light charcoal, regular charcoal, paraffin wax, candle wax, steel wool, cardboard, wood shavings, cotton wicks, etc.

All completed pieces should be brought in a sealable bag or can or carton.

You may also research for articles on the Internet, BSA handbook or other places.

Please do a brief write-up on the fire starter style you made as to construction, Troop #, etc so we can do a demo and camp wide info packet regarding these items.