

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

Beach Ball

Purpose:

Help participants understand the importance of minimizing their campfire impacts.

Supplies:

One blow up beach ball with questions related to this principle. Write the questions listed below on the ball. Write them going in different directions so it is easy to determine where a question starts and ends. Be sure to include the number so you can refer to the answer sheet if necessary. Up to 60 questions will fit on a 24" beach ball. Develop more questions that are more site specific for your area.

Directions:

"I am going to toss this ball out to you. I would like you to keep batting it around until I say STOP. The one holding the ball will tell me the number and read the question by their right thumb. You will then answer the question and we will discuss it. Okay, here we go.

Toss the ball out to the participants. Stop it about every 4 to 5 hits and go through the question and answer process. You have the answers to the questions listed below for reference.

1: What alternatives to a campfire are there for cooking food?

Camp stove – Backpacking stove – Briquets – Alcohol stove.

2: Give 5 artificial light source alternatives to a campfire:

Electric Lantern

Flashlight

Luminary

Gas Lantern

Flashlight in colored Nalgene bottle

3: What is a natural light alternative to a campfire?

The moon and stars

4: Describe how to build a pan fire.

Review

5: Describe how to build a mound fire.

Review

6: How do you know where you can have a campfire?

Check with local land management agencies for the area you will be camping in.

7: Is it okay to build new fire rings? Why?

No. If the land management agency responsible for the area wanted a fire ring there would already be one there. Use an alternative fire source.

8: Is it okay to build a huge fire? Why or why not?

No. The larger the fire the more potential impact to the land. Large fires also deplete available fuel for others.

9: Is it okay to break limbs from standing trees to use for firewood? Why?

No. The area will not look natural with all the limbs within reach from the ground missing. This creates what is known as a "human browse line".

10. Where should we get our fire wood?

Use wood already on the ground..

11: What is the largest diameter fuel we should use? Why?

About the size of an adults wrist. Wood smaller than that will burn to a grey ash and can be disposed of properly without packing out the black embers left from larger pieces of wood.

12: What are the three sizes of wood you need to build a fire?

Tinder – Kindling – Fuel.

13: What size is tinder?

About the size of a toothpick.

14: What size is kindling?

About the size of a pencil.

15: What is the size of fuel?

No larger in diameter than an adults wrist.

16: What is the safest way to prepare wood for a fire?

Break it with your hands. If it is too large to break in that manner it is probably too large to burn to grey ash to dispose of easily.

17: What should you do with the grey ash that is left over when your fire cools off?

You should scatter it out over the area to return to the soil.

18: When should we use a backpacking stove instead of a fire?

When local land management agencies don't allow fires or when you want to make your life easier..

19: Why would land management agencies restrict fires?

When there is a shortage of fuel and visitors are damaging living trees to obtain something to burn and when conditions are such that an open fire could cause an out of control fire..

20: What benefits do a backpacking stove have?

No searching for fuel – No putting the fire out – No scattering ashes – No waiting for coals to cook – No black marks to scrub off bottom of pans – No concerns for fire restrictions