



Skills for Life- Fire skills

Before you begin –

- read through the Fire factsheet on the website - <https://glennywood.org.uk/activities/fires.html>
- Book one of the campfire circle or use the Alter fires to build your campfire as these are the only places you can have fires at Glenny.
- Consider where where groups will be able to collect a variety of woods – they'll need twigs, sticks, and small branches or logs of various sizes.
- Make sure the place you choose is safe, and you complete the draft fires risk assessment.
- Invite parents or carers (or older young people) to help.
- Ensure the Fire buckets have water in them

Build your fire

1. Everyone should split into a small group. An adult should join each small group.
2. Each small group should get into an area far enough from the other groups – at least 2-3 feet away is a good guide. They should clear their area so it's free from debris and ready to build a fire.
3. Each small group should collect wood. They should collect a variety of sizes from small twigs to big logs. They should look for dry wood that snaps and breaks easily, as this burns best.
4. Once a small group has a big enough pile of wood, they should sort it into four piles. The first pile should be wood about as thick as spaghetti. The second should be wood about as wide as a finger. The third should be wood about as thick as a wrist. Finally, the fourth should be wood wider than a wrist.

5. Each group should look at the 'Fire example' sheet and decide which fire they'll build, and how their sticks, twigs, and logs will work best.
6. Each group should build their fire in their allocated space within the fire circle or designated Alter fire. They should make sure there's plenty of scrunched up dry material in the heart of the structure.
7. Once a group is happy with their structure, they should get ready to light the fire. They should make sure the area is clear and that no one's wearing anything that could dangle into the flames.
8. An adult should supervise the safe lighting of the fire. The adult could invite people to help blow on the flame, fan the flame or add more sticks.
9. Everyone should watch their fire carefully, keeping an eye out for which twigs and sticks burn first and burn best, and how the fire catches. Everyone should beware of any stray sparks.
10. An adult should make sure the fire is completely out before it's left unattended, and ensure it is fully out before you leave Glenny

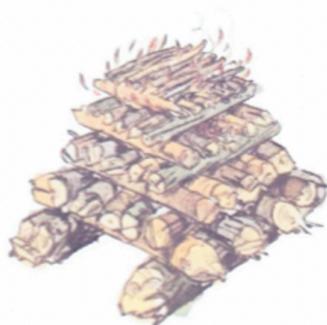
Fire examples

Two of the most common campfires are ground fires with towers and star fires.



Ground fire with tower

This type of fire is made from a layer of large logs and lots of layers of smaller pieces of wood. Each level should criss cross over the layer below it at the corners.



Star fire

Five or six large logs are in a star shape, with smaller pieces of wood placed upright like a teepee.

