



# Camping Planner

## Plan Ahead

- Make sure you are familiar with the area. Obtain all the maps you'll need for the roads and trails in the area.
- Check on the weather!
- Let someone know where you will be and when you will return. Have a plan in case you don't return on time.
- Select a good campsite. Use existing campsites when you can and go easy on the land.
- NEVER EVER take fireworks into the wildlands with you. It's a bad idea and it's illegal in Washington.
- Always pack your trash out and put your campsite in order when you leave. Remember take only pictures, leave only footprints.

## Can I have a Campfire?

- In Washington, you must have the landowner's permission before building a campfire (except on federal land). On State land you may only build a campfire in designated, sanctioned, open campgrounds. Dispersed camping is not allowed on state land.
- In the summer it is common for fire officials to place burn bans in effect to help prevent wildfires, so it's best to check for restrictions before you go. Check the camping section of [www.swfire.com](http://www.swfire.com) to find out how.

## How do I build a campfire?

- Build campfires away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, rotten stumps, logs, dry grass, and leaves. Pile any extra wood away from the fire. Scrape away litter, duff, and any burnable material within a 10-foot-diameter circle. This will keep a small campfire from spreading.
- Keep plenty of water handy and have a shovel for throwing dirt on the fire if it gets out of control.
- Be sure your match is out. Hold it until it is cold. Break it so that you can feel the charred portion before discarding it. Make sure it is cold out. TIP: To conserve matches, carry a candle as a fire starter.
- Start with dry twigs and small sticks. Add larger sticks as the fire builds up. Put the largest pieces of wood on last, pointing them toward the center of the fire, and gradually push them into the flames.

- Keep the campfire small. A good bed of coals or a small fire surrounded by rocks gives plenty of heat.
- Never leave a campfire unattended. Even a small breeze could quickly cause the fire to spread.

## How do I put out a campfire?

- Drown the fire with water. Make sure all embers, coals, and sticks are wet. Move rocks--there may be burning embers underneath.
- Stir the remains, add more water, and stir again. Be sure all burned material has been extinguished and cooled. If you do not have water, use moist dirt. Mix enough soil or sand with the embers to smother them. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cooled. Be careful not to bury burning material!
- Feel all materials with your bare hand. Make sure that no roots are burning. Do not bury your coals---they can smolder and re-ignite.

## What should I do if my fire gets away?

- **Don't panic!** If you can extinguish the fire in less than 5 minutes, do so. If the fire is spreading too quickly, get out of there and call for help.
- **Think about your location.** You will need to report exactly where you are, including the county. If you have a GPS, take coordinates and write them down. If you don't, use a map and have a description ready. Use landmarks and distances from known points: "5 miles north of Tum Tum Mountain".
- **Get to the nearest phone** and Call 9-1-1. If you're using a cell phone, make sure that you have reached a dispatcher in the county that you're in or ask them to transfer you to that county. If you can't find a phone, find someone with a radio or CB and ask them to call for help. If no one is around, walk or drive to the nearest phone. Remember not to panic. Drive or walk safely. You won't be able to report the fire if you don't make it to help in one piece.
- **Tell the dispatcher that you need to report a wildfire and give the description of your location.** If you can, tell them how big the fire is (for example: "It's about 20 feet by 20 feet and growing.") how quickly the fire is spreading, wind direction and speed and what type of fuel the fire is burning (grass, logging slash, forest floor etc.). You may be asked to help lead fire fighters to the fire.



# Camping Checklist

## GENERAL

Tent  
Sleeping bag  
Ground cloth/tarp  
Sheets/blankets  
Extra stakes  
Pillow  
Shade tarp/poles/rope/stakes  
Air mattress/sleeping pad/cot/tarp  
Hammer  
Air pump  
Mat for tent entrance  
Repair kit for air mattress  
Dust pan/brush  
Utility bags for storage

## CAMP FIRE GEAR

Bucket  
Shovel  
Axe  
Kindling  
Matches  
Newspaper  
Wood (only collect dead wood on ground)

## BASIC GEAR

Backpack / day pack / fanny pack  
Batteries / bulbs  
Canteen  
Compass  
Flashlight(s)  
Hiking/camping guides  
Camera / Film or Storage Disks  
Lantern(s)  
Camp Chairs  
Maps  
Money / Identification  
Pocket Knife  
Radio  
Rope  
Sport Gear (Frisbee, balls, etc.)  
Water Jugs  
Whistle

## PERSONAL GEAR

Lip balm  
First Aid Kit  
Insect Repellent  
Soap  
Sunglasses  
Sunscreen  
Bandanas  
Tissues/Toilet Paper  
Toothbrush  
Towels  
Wet Wipes / Washcloth  
Board Games / Playing Cards / Puzzles / Toys  
Coloring Books / Pencils / Crayons  
Music / Instruments / Songbooks

## KITCHEN STUFF

Aluminum Foil  
Bowls  
Cups / Mugs  
Dish Towel  
Ice  
Cooler  
Plates  
Paper Towels  
Utensils / Serving Spoons / Spatula / Tongs  
Propane / Fuel  
Dish soap (environmentally friendly?)  
Scrub pad  
Plastic Bags  
Plastic Storage Containers  
Stove  
Trash Bags  
Can Opener  
Bottle Opener / Cork Screw  
Coffee Pot  
Measuring Cups  
Pots and Pans  
Pot Holders

## FOOD

Butter / Milk / Cheese  
Oil  
Eggs  
Pancake / Biscuit Mix / Syrup  
Meat  
Bread / Buns / Rolls  
Fruit  
Vegetables  
Snacks  
Beverages  
Beverages  
Hot Cocoa  
Tea  
Coffee  
Soda / Sport Drinks  
Water  
Ketchup / Mustard / Mayonnaise / Relish  
Salt / Pepper / Seasonings  
Marshmallows

## CLOTHING

Gloves / Mittens / Warm Hats / Sun Hats  
Jeans  
Shoes / Boots / Sandals  
Shorts  
Socks / Underwear  
T-shirts  
Sweater  
Swim Suit  
Thermal Underwear  
Jacket / Coats / Raingear