

# THE SECRET TO FASTER FIRES

MAKE YOUR OWN FIRE STARTER FOR YOUR NEXT CAMPING TRIP

## GET YOUR STUFF

- Work gloves
- Old candles
- Woodchips or sawdust
- Small paper cups



- String
- Old coffee can (*rinsed clean*)
- Saucepan (*big enough for the coffee can to fit inside*)



## GET STARTED

1. Cut the string to make a wick for each cup. Fill the cups with woodchips and stick the wicks down the middle.
2. Break wax from the candles and put pieces in the coffee can.
3. Fill a saucepan halfway with water, float the coffee can on top, and heat the pan on low till the wax melts (don't let it boil).
4. Using the work gloves, pour melted wax over the wood chips. Let cool.
5. To start a fire, place your fire starter under your kindling and light the wick.

# FAMILY CAMPFIRE SAFETY ACTIVITY

*For ages 8 to 12*

Next time you build a fire, give your kids this checklist. Working alongside you will help them learn to build safe fires. As the saying goes, actions speak louder than words!

## JUNIOR FIRE MARSHAL CAMPFIRE CHECKLIST

- Safe distance.** Is your fire at least 10 feet from anything that can catch fire, like overhanging branches, the picnic table, or the tent? If you can't move the fire ring, move the stuff.
- Where's the water?** Do you have water or a shovel nearby to put out the fire quickly if needed?
- Gather kindling.** Where allowed, search near the campsite for dry twigs, leaves or pine needles. Crumpled newspaper or paper towels also work.
- What's your fire style?** Teepee? Lean-to? Cross-ditch? Pyramid? Try different fire-building techniques, and keep a record of which ones work best.
- Adults only.** The grownups are in charge of lighting and stoking the fire.
- Fuel away.** Ask an adult to move any source of fuel (like a lantern or lighter fluid) far away before the fire is lit.
- Attention!** Fires must always be attended. Who is the adult on watch?
- Over and out.** Once the fire has died down, an adult should use water or dirt to extinguish the embers. Stir to make sure the fire is completely out.