



When you go camping do you know how to properly build and put out your fire?

After a hectic school year, chances are you're ready to welcome the sunshine and family downtime that summer brings. When you go camping do you know how to properly build and put out your camp fire? Many people don't. Forest fires often start from campfires that were not put out. Here's a list of instructions for safe campfires:

#### **BUILDING A SAFE CAMPFIRE**

- Build campfires away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, rotten stumps, logs and dry grass and leaves.
- Start with dry twigs and small sticks. Remember a good firebuilder never needs gas and kerosene to start a fire.
- Keep the campfire small. A good bed of coals or a small fire surrounded by rocks gives plenty of heat. Use an existing fire ring.
- Add larger sticks as the fire builds up. Avoid using hatchets, saws or breaking branches off trees. Dead and down wood burns easily.
- Put the big pieces on last, pointing them toward the center and pushing them into the flames. Use wood no larger than the diameter of an adult wrist.
- Never leave a campfire unattended. Even a small breeze could quickly cause the fire to spread.

#### **PUTTING OUT YOUR CAMPFIRE**

- 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 cold. Break it so you can feel the charred portion before carefully discarding it.
- Drown the fire with water. Make sure all embers and sticks are wet. Move rocks because there maybe burning embers underneath.
- Stir the remains, add more water and stir again. Be sure all burned material has been put out and cooled. Smaller pieces of wood are easier to put out than large logs.
- Feel all materials with your bare hands. Make sure that no roots are burning.



### BTB Volunteer Uses WV Elk Hair to Produce WV Brook Trout



Justin Hettick, President of the WV Bowhunters Association and one of our BTB camp volunteers, had been itching to give his elk hair flies a try. They weren't just any elk hair rigs, these flies were hand tied using hair off the first elk captured under the Division of Natural Resources program to reintroduce elk to the Mountain State.

Hettick said he hoped to use flies from the first West Virginia elk in more than 100 years to catch a native brook trout.

He left Morgantown headed for a favorite native trout stream in Randolph County with his buddy Kent Garvin with plans to try it.

"Our purpose was singular: we both planned to catch native brookies on our WV elk dry flies," Hettick explained. "I had more confidence than Kent, tying mine on first, and heading into the stream. Kent opted to keep his in his fly box until he saw rising fish."

It didn't take long. Within the first 100 yards of fishing, Hettick had a native brook trout rise up and snatch a A native brook trout caught on a hand tied fly using the hair from the first elk in West Virginia in more than 100 years

bite of "West Virginia One." He carefully worked the fish toward him and soon had him in the net.

"We cheered, and Kent convinced me to cut the fly and return it to my flybox, rather than risk losing it.," Hettick said.

So it was Garvin's turn, and soon the hand tied flies of West Virginia elk hair scored again when Garvin caught his first brookie on the fly within the next few minutes. "Our goal was achieved by slightly after 9 a.m." said Hettick. "There was nothing left to do but relax, fish, and enjoy the rest of a stunningly beautiful day in the mountains of West Virginia."

Hettick reported both of them caught a lot more fish during the day, but none were as special as those first two. Given the history of the flies, they'll be hard pressed to catch a fish that special again.

Source: WV Metro News



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Beyond The Backyard is asking all of its members to become a fan of our organization at www.facebook.com/beyondthebackyard. This is a great way for us to share stories and photographs of our outdoor adventures. This also allows us to keep all of our members up-to-date on events around the Mountain State. We also post all of our hunting and fishing adventures on Twitter and Instagram. Find us at twitter.com/beyond\_backyard and instagram.com/beyondthebackyard

### Member Spotlight

Would you like to be the next kid featured in our member spotlight?

Sign up at: beyondthebackyard.org



Name: Wyatt Chestnut
Birthday: April 24, 2006
Lives in: East Bank, WV
Siblings: Willow and Cody
Parents: Kevin and Rose
Activities: Fishing, hunting,
trapping, camping, kayaking, soccer,
basketball and track
Favorite Food: Cheeseburgers,
fries, fresh caught fish
Favorite Hobby: Collecting minerals
and ball cards and playing Minecraft
and ball cards and playing Minecraft
World of Gumball and Gravity Falls
World of Gumball and Gravity Falls

## Word Find Can you find them all?

Using the list below, find the words that are hidden in the jumble.

**ROPE TENT STARS INSECTS TREES MOUNTAIN LANTERN CLIMB FISHING** CAMP **KNIFE FLASHLIGHT** SUN WATER BOTTLE TRAIL MIX **BOOTS BACKPACK** HIKE **ADVENTURE SLEEPING BAG COMPASS CAMPFIRE** MOON **NATURE** 

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