



Here are two simple rules for wilderness survival. Live simple. Be careful.

1) Live simple.

Have a good look around the area to pick the best spot to build shelter. If live branches are used, be selective, practice good and clean pruning techniques; make any cuts with saws or hatchets clean and close – don't leave a lot of stumps or ragged cuts to later stumble over. Be careful to recognize poison ivy vines/bushes when clearing or picking up cover for your shelter. If you are building a fire (and no fire ban has been

declared by the ranger), remember to clear an adequate space around your fire ring before starting your fire. Think about where to have your fire relative to your shelter; can you use any kind of reflector for your fire to direct heat into your shelter such as a rock slab or stones piled high behind the fire. It gets dark by 5:30, and even sooner when you're in a forest. Make sure you have collected an adequate supply of kindling and firewood to last into the evening, and maybe even to start up a quick fire on Sunday morning. A good reference point is about an armful load of wood the size of a baseball bat to last about an hour. You don't need a huge blazing fire to stay warm. All shelters must be completely dispersed before leaving the site. Fires must be extinguished and areas covered to look as natural as when you came.

2) Be careful.

Buddy system at all times. First aid kits prominently placed around camping area. Be safe! Any activity away from the camping area should be approved by an adult leader. Practice sign in/sign out when expecting to be away from the camping area. Be aware there may be bow-hunters in our area. Do not go sneaking around unnecessarily, and stay on the trail. Talk with your buddy, but do not shout, to make yourselves apparent in the woods.