



Minimize Campfire Impact: “Mound Fire Mania”

Audience: Ages 10 and up. Groups of any size.

Time: 30 to 45 minutes.

Materials: Multiple trowels, stuff sacks, sections of tarps or fire cloth, a large amount of mineral soil.

Leave No Trace Objective: To teach participants how to build a mound fire.

Directions: Demonstrate to participants how to build a mound fire using a trowel, tarp/cloth, stuff sack, and mineral soil. Then split the group up into smaller groups of two or three. Place all of the materials on one side of your teaching space (classroom, lawn, etc.). Have each group line up and give them a minute to formulate a plan. Each member of the team has to travel across the space and take one item (a trowel, stuff sack, or tarp/cloth) back to the starting point. Once a team member has crossed the space, they must remain at the starting point until each member of their team has taken a turn traveling to get materials. Once the tarp, trowel and stuff sack are at the starting point, participants will take turns traveling, back to the pile of materials to retrieve soil. While one team member is retrieving the other(s) can be working on the construction of the mound fire. The first team to finish a proper mound fire “wins”.

Debrief: Discuss the benefits of a mound fire and how it can help minimize campfire impacts. This is an ideal opportunity to have current stats on wildfire issues to be able to discuss that impact and the role that recreational campfires play is causing those fires.