

FIREM'N CHIT — INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

TROOP 23 BROOKLYN · OCTOBER 2026 EDITION · T23B.ORG/ADVANCEMENTS/AWARDS/FIREMN-CHIT

Who teaches. Taught by an adult leader or by a Scout who holds the card.

Where. On a campout, at a fire site the camp allows, with a real fire. Gather the tinder, kindling and fuel wood with the Scouts — on the day's hike, if there is one — so the material is theirs.

Before the session. Each Scout has read the fire safety pages of the Scouts BSA Handbook (requirement 1) and the guide at t23b.org/advancements/awards/firemn-chit — it follows the same seven steps as this sheet. Bring the group sign-off sheet.

What to have at the fire site

- A bucket of water, filled before any match is struck, and a shovel
- Matches and a lighter in a closed, dry container
- Tinder, kindling and fuel wood — enough for every Scout to lay a fire
- A pocketknife, and a saw if needed, to prepare tinder and kindling (Second Class 2b)
- The group sign-off sheet and a pen

How to teach it: EDGE, seven steps

Explain the step, **demonstrate** it while they watch, **guide** them while they try it with you beside them, then **enable** them to do it on their own. Take the seven steps in order — the same order as the guide page.

1. **Should there be a fire?** A stove may do the job better. Fire rules differ by place and season — permits, fire-ring-only parks, burn bans, the owner's permission on private land. The leader checks before anyone lights. (*Req. 2 · Second Class 2a*)
2. **Right spot.** Use the existing fire ring if there is one. Clear everything that can burn for 5 feet in every direction — a circle 10 feet across — and look up for branches over the fire. (*Req. 3*)
3. **Right material.** Tinder catches from a match: dry grass, shavings from a dead stick. Kindling is dry twigs. Fuel wood is dry branches. All of it is gathered and sorted before anything is lit. (*Req. 4 · Second Class 2b*)
4. **Right shape.** A tepee, log cabin or lean-to over the tinder, with room for air to reach the middle.
5. **Light it.** Water and shovel are already in place. One match, fully lit in cupped hands, into the tinder. The matches go straight back into their container. (*Req. 4, 6*)
6. **Manage it.** One person is in charge of the fire at a time. Feed it from small to large. The fire is never left alone. (*Req. 5*)
7. **Put it out.** Spread the coals, sprinkle water — a big pour throws steam and spatter — stir, add water, stir again, until the ashes can be touched with a bare hand. Then clean the fire lay. (*Req. 7*)

What each Scout has to show

- Clears the site and checks overhead (3)
- Gathers and sorts tinder, kindling and fuel wood (4)
- Lays a fire that lights from one match (4)
- Has water and a shovel in place before lighting (6)
- Tends the fire without leaving it (5)
- Does the cold-out test and cleans the fire lay — **at the end of the evening campfire, on the fire actually used** (7)
- Answers the questions below out loud

Questions — ask them as the work goes

Every Scout answers out loud, in his own words. You are not checking wording; listen for the idea in the right-hand column. There is no written test.

#	Ask	Listen for	Req.
1	Where did you read the fire safety rules? Tell me one.	The Scouts BSA Handbook, and any correct rule from it.	1

2	When is a fire the wrong choice?	When a stove would do the job; when fires are restricted or it is too dry; when there is no permission or permit; when there is no safe spot.	2 · SC 2a
3	Who decides whether we may have a fire here?	The rules of this camp or park — they differ from place to place, and the leader checks them before anyone lights one.	2
4	Where do we build the fire?	In the existing fire ring or fire lay, if there is one.	3
5	How much do you clear around it?	Everything that can burn, 5 feet in every direction — 10 feet across.	3
6	Name the three kinds of fuel, smallest first.	Tinder, kindling, fuel wood.	4 · SC 2b
7	Where do the matches and the lighter go between uses?	Back into a closed, dry container, away from the fire.	4
8	What has to be next to the fire before the first match?	Water, a shovel, or both.	6
9	Who is in charge of the fire?	One person at a time, by name, until it is out.	5
10	Everyone is leaving camp for an hour. What happens to the fire?	It goes out first. A fire is never left alone.	5
11	A spark lands outside the ring and dry leaves catch. What do you do?	Put it out at once if it is small and safe to; tell an adult right away either way. A fire that gets away is reported to the authorities without delay.	6
12	How do you know a fire is cold out?	Spread, water, stir, repeat — until the ashes can be touched with a bare hand.	7
13	What is left to do after the cold-out test?	Clean the fire lay, so the site is left the way it was found.	7
14	Requirement 8 names four things you follow. What are they?	The Outdoor Code, the Guide to Safe Scouting, Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly!	8
15	Which line of the Outdoor Code is this card about?	"Be careful with fire."	8
16	What happens if you break a fire safety rule?	A corner comes off the card. With all four gone, the card goes back to the Scoutmaster and the requirements are shown again.	troop

Signing it off

- Initial each requirement on the group sign-off sheet as the Scout shows it.
- The card is issued when all eight are initialed. It is signed by a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster and by the Advancement Chair, and the chit is recorded in Scoutbook.
- Anything not finished is finished on the next campout. What is signed stays signed.
- Scouting America's own text says only that the Fireman's Rights "can be taken away." The corners are this troop's practice, and they are printed on the back of our cards.

The same fire counts for Second Class

A Scout working on Second Class can show these on the same fire. They are signed separately.

- **2a.** Explain when it is appropriate to use a fire for cooking or other purposes and when it would not be appropriate to do so.
- **2b.** Use a pocketknife, and a saw or axe if needed, to prepare tinder, kindling, and fuel wood for a cooking fire.
- **2c.** Using a minimum-impact method, and at an approved outdoor location and time, use the tinder, kindling, and fuel wood from Second Class requirement 2b to demonstrate how to build a fire. Unless prohibited by local fire restrictions, light the fire. After allowing the flames to burn safely for at least two minutes, safely extinguish the flames with minimal impact to the fire site. Properly dispose of the ashes and any charred remains.