

## **Fire Site Preparation**

Before lighting a fire a Scout always clears the ground. This usually entails removing any turf to one side so the fire is built on top of the dirt. The only exception to this rule is an altar fire.

The turf which has been cleared neatly and safely out of the way must be kept moist to prevent it from drying. After the fire is no longer required and the ground has returned to normal temperature, the turf is replaced, watered and if you have done your job well, no one will know you have had a fire there.

To start a fire, push a stick upright into the ground to make a support for the small twigs and tinder. Around the base of the stick place plenty of 'dry' leaves and easily ignitable material as this is what should be lit first. Have ready plenty of sticks and twigs in various sizes to place onto, and build up, the fire. Remember small dry sticks burn quickly so make sure you have more than enough to hand.

Light the fire from the windward side and keep building up the sticks to make the fire grow until it is capable of burning the larger cut logs and wood. Allow the fire to become a bed of brightly glowing embers before attempting to cook.

Remember; if the embers start to lose their heat, more wood will have to be put on to keep in a good cooking fire.