

Company

PITCH PERFECT



GET
ADVENTUROUS



1 HOUR



PREPARATION
NEEDED



AIM

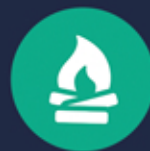
If you're looking to spend a night outdoors, then it's likely you'll need to know how to pitch the perfect tent. Get some hands-on experience learning how to put up a tent successfully and safely.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Safe & Comfortable Camping Location Sheet
- Tent, Pegs, Mallet etc.

GET ADVENTUROUS: PITCH PERFECT

THEME: MY SURVIVAL SKILLS



LEADER PREPARATION

This activity is all about giving young people the opportunity to learn how to put up a tent safely. Use tents that your young people are likely to interact with the most. If you use ridge tents when camping, use these. If your young people are more likely to use Expedition/Dome tents for things such as DofE, then complete the activity with these.



[Download Safe & Comfortable Camping Location Sheet](#)



GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

- 1 Safe & Comfortable Camping:** Before putting tents up, challenge your young people to think about things they need to consider when picking a safe and comfortable camping location. Do this as a brainstorming activity, with young people sharing their thoughts and a leader writing them down onto a large piece of paper. How many different factors can the group think of? We've put together some tips on the 'Safe & Comfortable Camping Location' sheet to help.
- 2 Key Skills:** Spend some time with the group showing them some key skills they might need. This might include how to knock in a peg, showing them how pegs should be placed at 45° angle, ensuring doors are closed before putting the tent up, guy ropes following the seam of the tent (where appropriate). Key skills needed will vary depending on the type of tent.
- 3 Do it Together:** Once the key skills have been learnt, as a large group put up a tent together. This will give the group hands on experience at pitching a tent, whilst still learning the steps of doing so from the leader. This is also a good opportunity to show how a tent is taken down.
- 4 Best Pitched Tent:** Now split off into smaller groups. Each group should be given a tent. Challenge the groups to pitch their tent, using the skills they have been taught. Explain that the tent will be judged once pitched. The tent that is pitched to the higher quality (i.e. secure & safe) will be crowned the winner. Make sure young people are aware this is not a race, but a competition focussed on quality.

If you only have the one tent, then you could still run the challenge, but with one group at a time. The group not pitching the tent could complete another activity whilst they are waiting.



IDEAS TO TAKE THIS FURTHER...

If your young people are already experienced in pitching tents, make the challenge harder by blindfolding half of the group. Those not blindfolded can give instructions but can't physically help.



KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

If using mallets, young people should be shown how to use one safely first. Guy ropes and pegs can create trip hazards, please make sure young people are aware of these and move around the tents appropriately.

WHAT MAKES A SAFE AND COMFORTABLE CAMPING LOCATION?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Well Drained Area / Solid Ground

Wet ground will not only make pitching a tent hard work, but it will also mean it is more likely that water may seep up into your tent. If the ground doesn't drain well then should you get heavy rain, you may end up in a very large puddle!

Flat Ground

If you can, try to pitch your tent on flat ground. This not only makes it a lot easier to put your tent up, but it will also then be a lot more comfortable when you are inside. Should you have to pitch your tent on a slight incline, then always make sure you sleep with your head going uphill.

Never Under a Tree

Never pitch your tent directly under a tree. The reasons behind this range from rainwater from the tree dripping loudly onto your tent, tree sap ruining your canvas and birds choosing to sit in the tree and then leaving droppings over your tent. There is then also the dramatic case of high winds / thunderstorm causing damage to the tree and parts of it landing on you.

Shelter from Wind & Sun

Finding shelter from the elements can sometimes be hard to achieve, but if you can do it then it will certainly make your camping experience better. Bushes can be good for shielding some of the wind and also providing you with some shade from the sun. A tent in direct sunlight, particularly in the summer, can become like a sauna!

Clear the Ground

You might be in a hurry to get your tent up, but taking two minutes beforehand to clear the ground of any sticks, rocks and other objects is highly recommended. This will stop you sleeping and treading on objects underneath the tent when it's up.

Space Between Tents

Where possible try to leave at a reasonable amount of space between your tent and someone else's. This is for a number of reasons such as not tripping up other people's tent pegs, stopping the risk of potential fires spreading and also it's good for privacy too.