

How\_To\_Build\_A\_Sauna\_1994.txt

Newsgroups: rec.scouting

Subject: How to build a Sauna

Date: Thu, 15 Dec 94 17:09:00 +0200

In article , STOVER ENG writes in

rec.scouting:

SE> I had the opportunity to enjoy a Finnish Sauna at the last World Jamboree  
> in S. Korea. It was a tent with a small sauna box (wood stove) and stove

I have built and used more tent saunas (well, we call it  
badstu, and one non-english word is as good as the other, so I use our  
language's word for it). It doesn't have a stove, but a stone oven  
without a chimney.

I'd set up a tent on a framework, that can easily be lifted up by 4-6  
people and moved away some meters. The ground should be cleared of  
grass and roots in a square of approx. 1m x 1m; the ground should  
preferably be sand, gravel or clay in that fireplace area. Collect a  
lot of stones, and build an oven (the fire may and should be able to  
leak between the stones, but there should be a cave in the middle). Get  
lots of wood fuel, make a fire in the cave, and heat it for several  
hours. When you think it's ready, you may be wrong, but let's assume  
you are ready. Then you carry the rest of the fire out with a shovel  
(so the cave opening must be wide enough for the shovel); sweep it with  
a brush e.g. of birch twigs, carry the tent to stand with the stone  
heap in the middle, and there you are: the badstu is ready for use.

You'll have a bucket of water available and a scoop so you can sprinkle  
small amounts of water on the stones. Somebody must stand guard by the  
tent opening so that whoever wants to, can be helped to find her/his  
way out.

If the scouts are allowed to cut birch twigs, they might like to use

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one for whipping themselves lightly with it. It makes a fine scent in the badstu, and in their skin. If it isn't fresh, it can be softened by standing with the leaves in the water.

You'll want to have a shower of some kind outside - or a bathing place.

Make sure the tent isn't of a cloth that will burn off a spark or melt by the heat if it comes near the stones, fireproofed cotton is fine. It should not be so heavy that it's dark inside.

I suppose that most of the usable heat is gone after some hour or so - it depends on how much stones you've carried together and how hot you let them get.

I've used such a badstu during my advanced leader training (Gilwell course) and later during a couple of summer camps (jamborees).  
speiderhilsen / good scouting

Jan

Kirkeoy sea scouts, Norway

\* 1st 2.00b #1407 \* Scouting is a way of life