**Paper Mache Campfire**

Camp fires are synonymous with sleep away camps, but are few and far between at day camp.

So why not make this Paper Mache version, to have that camp fire feel at home, but safer and portable!

You can then use this camp fire as a base for other activities, and as a conversation starting point about camping, camp fire safety, camp fire songs, camp fire cooking, and SO much more!

When making your camp fire, ensure you either use a spot that you’re happy to clean up, OR use a disposable table cover that you can toss away after making your fire. Also, be sure to wear clothes that you don’t mind getting messy! A Camp shirt from last summer is the ideal item!

**WHAT YOU’LL NEED:**

- Glue
- Water
- Paper, torn into strips
- A workspace, with disposable cover
- Small tube items, like paper towel middles or plastic soda bottles

Resources:

https://smokeybear.com/en
How to make the Paper Mache paste:

OPTION 1: 3/4 white glue to 1/4 water

OPTION 2: COOK
METHOD: 1 part flour to 5 parts water... boil about 3 minutes and let cool

OPTION 3: 1 part flour to 1 part water. Whisk.

1. Your base
Select the base you want to cover with the Paper Mache, such as a small plastic soda bottle or paper towel middle.

2. Get layering!
Coat your paper strip with the glue mix, and layer it onto your base. Consider making ridges like real logs have!

3. Drying time
Layer no more than 4 layers at a time, leave to dry for a couple of hours, then add another 4 layers. Consider using brown construction paper for the outer layer.

4. Assemble!
It's best to leave the 'fire' to dry overnight. Paint your logs if needed, then when everything is dry assemble your fire, using construction paper or tissue paper as flames!

Notes

• Do remind your campers that this is NOT a real flame, and NO real flames should be near this campfire!

• Talk about fire safety, and about which parts of the campfire you could touch in real life, and which would be too hot

• Talk about what items you could add to a camp fire (kindling, logs) and what you would not add to a camp fire (eg, flammable liquids, aerosols, glass, etc)

• Talk about what foods you can cook over a real campfire, and then 'cook' them over your paper Mache campfire. Ideas for this include s’mores and baked bananas!