

Plan:

- Does anyone in the Company (including Scouters) know how to light a fire with a bow drill? If not, where can you learn about this skill?
- What equipment will you need? Most elements for the bow drill kit will be best sourced in nature, to simulate a survival situation and minimize expense.
- Set a location and itinerary for the activity. This may be done at a camp or alone at home. Be prepared to spend significantly more time on this activity than some television or online videos would suggest. This activity is more likely to take a few hours than a few minutes—but the latter is possible!

Do:

- Craft your bow drill set
- Practise lighting a fire
- Compete against the other members of the Company to ignite a tinder bundle

Safety note:

- Use a sharp knife to craft your bow drill set. A sharp knife is less likely to slip and cause injury.
- What preparations will you make to thoroughly extinguish the campfires?

Review:

- Were you successful in this activity? Why or why not?
- What do you know now that you did not know before?
- How did you feel before, during, and after this activity?
- Did you do this as part of a group? How did this impact the project?
- What would you do differently in the future?



It starts with Scouts.

Bow Drill

Environment & Outdoors



The Adventure:

Learn to make a bow drill and use it to light a fire. This is an ancient technique for fire-lighting, and it's a valuable survival skill.

Once you've begun to feel confident in your technique, put it to use in a competition. Members of the Company can race against one another to light a fire with a bow drill. Those who are most successful can offer some tips to members of the Company who aren't having as much success with this truly difficult skill.



Online Resources:

- [Introduction to Bow Drill](#)
- [Bear Grylls on how to light a fire with a bow drill](#)
- [Start a Fire With a Bow Drill](#)

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