Personal Tarp Shelter

The Adventure:
While most day hikers wouldn’t want to pack a tent, packing a tarp for an emergency shelter can be worthwhile. It’s like packing the fly to your tent and leaving the poles and the tent itself behind.

As an Expedition Team, practise setting up tarps for effective personal shelters, and camp out overnight without the aid of tents.

Once you’ve mastered this skill, you will find that even when you plan to camp overnight you sometimes prefer this approach to carrying a tent. There are, after all, real benefits to packing light that should always be considered when planning any outing.

Safety note:
Sleeping under a tarp can be more comfortable in some conditions than others. If mosquitoes are likely to be out, be sure to pack repellent and a head net to use overnight. Mosquitoes aren’t just annoying; they can carry diseases like the West Nile Virus, and too many bites can cause an allergic reaction.

Online Resources:
• How to build a survival shelter
• How to set up a tarp
• Set up a tarp

Plan:
• When and where will you have this Adventure?
• What equipment (including tarps) do you need to bring?
• Has anyone in your Company slept out under a tarp before? What tips can he or she share?

Do:
• Have a great camp. Discover the pleasures of sleeping out in the open air.

Review:
• What do you know now that you did not know before?
• What difficulties did you encounter? How did you overcome them?
• How has this experience shaped how you view sleeping in a tent?
• What would you do differently next time?
• How can you build on this experience?

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