

Notes from the Tarp Shelters Webinar

Maslow (1943) A theory of Human Motivation. The theory of Hierarchy of Needs:
Physiological, Safety, Love and Belonging, Self Esteem, Self Actualisation

Other reasons for Shelters:

- Physiological need
- Fresh air
- Benefit Risk Assessment
- Physical development
- Intellectual - HOTS & problem solving
- Creativity
- Social- place for friends to gather
- Emotional - relax/quiet
- Resilience/persever
- Curriculum coverage- STEM, Language, HWB...

Site Appraisal

- Access- distance from road/car/public transport
- Path networks in existence
- Habitat- ground, field, shrub, tree, canopy
- Slopes
- Water bodies
- Boundaries
- Other users
- Site layout
- Permissions & landlord agreement
- Insurance (public liability)
- Compliance with the law

Balancing Benefits & Risks

- The environment
- The resource
- The experience
- The individual
- The group

Compiling the paperwork

- Take care with generic risk assessments
- Review regularly
- If not following precautions - stop or amend
- All staff & volunteers should be aware and follow

Hazards

- Rope/string
- Height
- Materials
- Surfaces
- Canopy/ Overhead structures
- Tools
- Biohazards
- Weather
- People

The Three Vital Questions for Children

- 1) What is good about doing this (benefits)?
- 2) What do we need to be careful of (hazards and/or risks)?
- 3) How do we stay safe (precautions)?

Shelter origins

- Temporary
- Permanent

- Natural materials
- Mass produced/synthetic

Scottish Origins:

- Mesolithic settlers - temporary using supple timbers - Willow & hazel
- Later, stone houses, Crannogs
- Wattling walls, oak beams
- Turf, thatch (heather, marram, rush, Bracken)

Location, Location, Location

- Pre-existing cover

- Avoid dips/hollows- damp
- Avoid crests- leeward
- Water (insects)
- Canopy - no deadwood
- Boughs, roots, trunks

Rope, Cordage, String (Made From)

- Natural - jute, sisal, bark, nettle, willow herb, hemp, cotton- reverse twist/plait, Unpredictable, biodegradable
- Synthetic ropes (Polyamide/nylon, polyester, Polypropylene, Polyethylene)- light, strong, water resistant, hard wearing
- Wire- heavy, strong, can damage trees if no protection not often used in bushcraft

Choice/ Purpose

- Properties -Dynamic (stretches) to Static (low stretch)

Considerations:

- Durability
- Break strength
- Environmental credentials
- Texture
- Weight
- Cost

Care

- Storage- dry, no sunlight
- Coil
- Wash
- Dry
- Check for damage
- Sealed Ends- whipped or heat, tape

Coiling a rope

- Thumb and little finger
- Around your hand
- Over your back

<https://youtu.be/WalB2wXEK64>

Hitches & Lashings

- Working end
- Standing end
- Loop/turn

- Bight

Hitches

Clove Hitch

<https://youtu.be/hjdeg3BFjcM>

Round Turn and Two half Hitches

https://youtu.be/1ll_68JKoZg

Timber Hitch

<https://youtu.be/n7R0Yp5uP1g>

Lark's Foot & Prusik

<https://youtu.be/h58Ulj2jDMc>

Trucker's Hitch

<https://youtu.be/yIwWN3IF5xo>

Lashing

Square Lashing

<https://youtu.be/d2KgThQn5JQ>

Figure of 8 or Tripod Lashing

Protecting grommets/eyelets

- Duct tape
- Clove hitch over an object
- Guy line loop over a stick
- Metal bottle lid
- Tarp clamps
- Bungee in guys/ridge line- high winds

Attachment

- Figure of 8 on a bight loop and thread through eyelet
- Climbing sling and Karabiner around tree
- Paracord prusik & stick
- Pegs/clip
- Ball bungees
- Ringpull
- Cardboard with holes
- Framework collars - bottles
- Tension stick

Shelter styles

Lean to

<https://youtu.be/Uy8kNIpkcAk>

A- Frame

<https://youtu.be/bd2YcVEvmFA>

Tarp Tipi

<https://youtu.be/fFfdZYJ-59E>

Diamond/Plowpoint/Tripod

https://youtu.be/Z_DenVvz9K4

Survival shelter

- Predesigned resource
- Has vents
- This one has a window and reflective panel on the far side

Free standing frames

- Tripod
- Tipi
- Try to use green wood- check permission to gather, Sycamore usually plentiful

Materials

- Tarpaulin (avoid cheapest/thinnest)
- Parachutes
- Heavy duty bin bags
- Plastic matting
- Camo-net
- Different textures/materials- duvet?
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- Car windscreen protectors/reflectors
- Thermarest/camp mats/yoga mat

Moving towards Natural dens- small scale or large - same styles

References & Contact Details:

Books

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Kate Hookham

www.do-learn.co.uk

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Wiseman, J (1993) SAS survival guide, Collins Gem

Websites: YouTube searches

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<https://www.owlscotland.org/images/uploads/resources/files/>

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<https://members.scouts.org.uk/>

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<https://climbingblogger.com/when-to-retire-a-climbing-rope/>

App:

[Knot guide free](#)

[Survival guide](#)

[SAS survival light](#)