



THE GREAT TOMMY SLEEP OUT

10 Top tips for building
the perfect campfire





10 TOP TIPS FOR BUILDING THE PERFECT CAMPFIRE

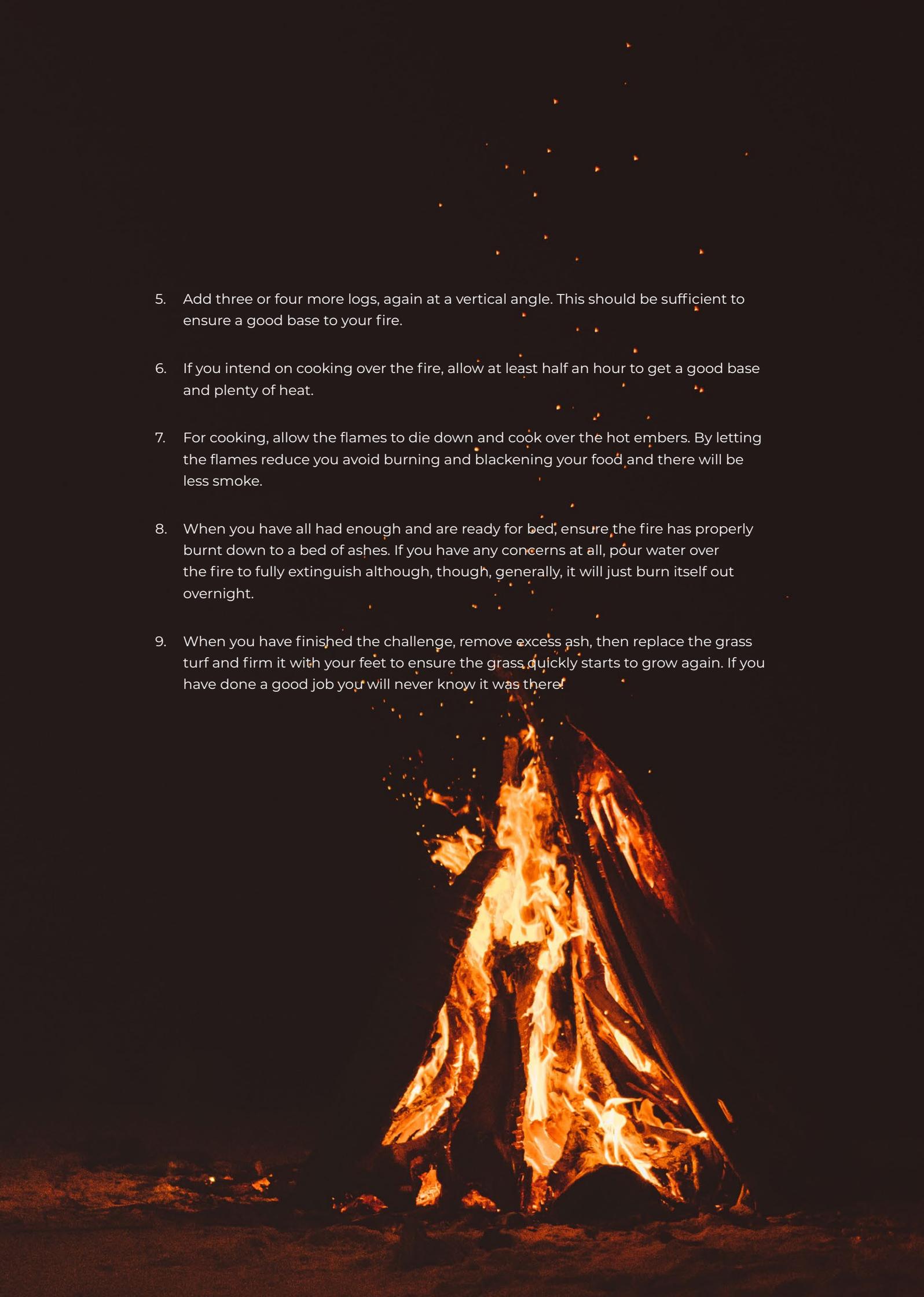


Everyone enjoys a campfire when they're camping, but how many people really know the best and easiest way to get one going? Here are our top tips to help you get started...

One thing that everyone loves about camping is the prospect of a campfire. There's nothing better than sitting around a roaring log fire on a cool evening, enjoying a good book, sharing stories with family and friends or staring endlessly into the flames. A good campfire warms the soul as well as keeping your toes and fingers snug.

If you're not sure about where to start, then don't worry. We've put together a list of handy tips that should help you get your campfire going. You'll be toasting those marshmallows and making s'mores in no time!

1. Choose a site for your fire that is at least five metres away from your tent or any hedgerows. To avoid burning the grass you can either use a raised firepit or you can make a pit in the grass
2. To make your own firepit, cut an area of turf about 60cm x 60cm and approximately 10cm deep. Place the turf to one side, ready to replace. It's a really good idea to border this area with large stones to prevent the fire spreading onto the grass.
3. Now that you have prepared your pit, take around eight dry kindling sticks and build a small jenga in the middle of your pit. Place a firelighter, ideally a natural firelighter down the middle, then place two or three smaller kiln dried logs at an angle over the jenga.
4. Light the flamer firelighter and leave for at least 10 minutes to get the all the wood burning through nicely.

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5. Add three or four more logs, again at a vertical angle. This should be sufficient to ensure a good base to your fire.
 6. If you intend on cooking over the fire, allow at least half an hour to get a good base and plenty of heat.
 7. For cooking, allow the flames to die down and cook over the hot embers. By letting the flames reduce you avoid burning and blackening your food and there will be less smoke.
 8. When you have all had enough and are ready for bed, ensure the fire has properly burnt down to a bed of ashes. If you have any concerns at all, pour water over the fire to fully extinguish although, though, generally, it will just burn itself out overnight.
 9. When you have finished the challenge, remove excess ash, then replace the grass turf and firm it with your feet to ensure the grass quickly starts to grow again. If you have done a good job you will never know it was there!



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