

DAY PACKS & SECTION SHELTERS – FLEXIBILITY AND EXPANDIBILITY

In order to enjoy more flexibility and applications Rangers may want **the option** of building a SECTION SIZED shelter rather than 6 or 7 separate mini-shelters (but using the same components and materials found within the Ranger day pack).

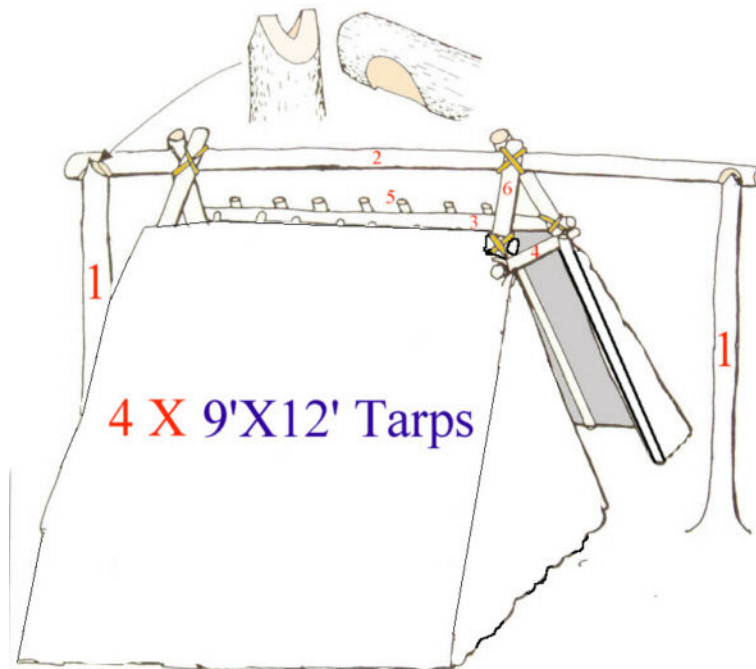
In order to facilitate this Rangers can consider starting with shelters.

Try putting a shelter design together that is expandable (or modular).

The Following design requires the day packs of FOUR RANGERS to build assuming they each have:

- 1. One 9X12' tarp**
- 2. 15 metres of good twine (or paracord) This is more than needed for the shelter - however there may be other uses.**
- 3. Pruning saws or hatchets**

The Rangers can build themselves a shelter using these tools & components but if there are 4 (or more) of them they can expand their shelter into something much more comfortable and safe from inclement weather.



1. Cut two trees down about 7 to 8 feet high and about 14 to 16 feet apart (OR BUILD TRIPOD);
2. Notch the top of the stump as seen in the above diagram and lay a 15 to 17' pole across the top (if you have small spikes use them as anchors or lash them in place);
6. Cut Four 10 poles and space them out 11'6" apart leaning against your overhead pole. Lash them into place;

3. Lash side stabilizer poles in place (top and bottom);
4. Lash front and rear stabilizer poles in place;
5. lash roof stringers in place (spacing every 2')

Use your tarps as sheathing over top of this field ready frame.

Remember that this system is designed to permit an internal fire (like a teepee). Ensure the fire pit is elevated off the ground using anything you can find that will not burn. As snow melts it will try to drain into your shelter.

Keep your beds off the ice. Build yourselves remedial beds out of poles and lash them into place. You will need at least 4" of compressed bows on-top of your frame to provide some sleeping insulation. You will find that warm air can now circulate under your bed. You will stay warm.

Keep your roof ventilated. You should have enough tarp to seal the roof (when the fire is extinguished) but when it is lit use a stick to keep the top flaps open so that smoke can be ventilated outside. The bigger the ceiling vent the less smoke inside the shelter and the less heat inside the shelter.

You should have good breathable smoke free air 1m off the ground. The upper regions of the shelter will be smoky (especially with damp wood).

Make sure the fire can breath. You will need to ensure that air can enter the shelter from under the tarp edges. Dig or build air channels to suit this purpose. Remember that these channels can be plugged up if it is snowing. Be inventive.

You can rig an internal drying rack by installing a pole (or poles) over the side stabilizers. Very important that your gear remains dry in the winter.

GIVE IT A TRY.

CONSIDER STANDARDIZING YOUR DAY PACKS.

If anything else get your Patrol to build one of these during a meeting.

Time them

They may think this makes good sence (especially if you are caring for someone with hyperthermia or other injury).

Using your day packs you can shelter an entire section in one structure.

You can buy utility green 9'X12' tarps at Canadian Tire for \$4.99 ea.

This is a very inexpensive way to keep morale up, keep Rangers busy and allow them to improve on the design.

Practice makes perfect.

Heck make a winter weekend trip out of making these shelters with your fellow Rangers and live in "Day Pack Comfort".

Note: Original Image borrowed from MORS KOCHANSKI's Book "BUSH CRAFT" *Outdoor Skills and Wilderness Survival*. Plan is modified to suit this purpose (Thank You Paintshop Pro). Buy his book. This should be mandatory reading for all Rangers.....