

The Baskerville Burner

The Baskerville Burner was 'invented' in the summer of 1988 by Paul Baskerville, of the Tolmers Scout Camp Service Crew.

Himself and Shaun Joynson were running a survival course and Paul kept burning his fingers when trying to light fires without matches using pine cones, so he set about constructing something that would prevent this and as a result came up with the Burner.

When properly constructed, the Baskerville Burner will light first time every time even when damp.

To make a Baskerville Burner, take a pine cone. Turn it upside down and stick three small twigs into it to create a tripod for the cone to stand on. Next, take some strips of silver birch bark and wedge them into the leaves of the pine cone. Put a strip of bark into each leaf of the cone making sure you leave some trailing on the ground.

Place the completed burner firmly on the ground and put some cotton wool or dry thistle heads underneath it. Using a flint and striker, create a spark underneath the burner. The cotton wool will catch and set light to the bark, which in turn will set light to the cone.

Have some sticks to hand and place these round the burner and within about five minutes you should have a raging fire.

