

Campfire Fun

You can add beautiful colors to your campfire while demonstrating the predictability and awesome design of God's world.

Colorful Fire Logs

Select a large log and bore several holes about 1 inch in diameter in the log. Pack each hole with sawdust that has been soaked in a solution of one of the following chemicals. You may combine several colors in one log, or have one log for each color. Either way you will have beautiful colored flames in your campfire. Most of the chemicals will be available at your local grocery store, hardware store or drug store.

Chemical Color

Calcium Chloride used to melt ice Orange

Sodium Chloride (Table Salt) Yellow

Potassium Nitrate (Salt Peter) Violet

Copper Sulfate (bluestone) Blue

used to treat disease in cattle feet

Cream of Tartar Violet

Boric Acid Antiseptic Eye Wash (Borox) Green

Fire Cubes

Separate the cups of an egg carton by ripping or cutting in between them. Stuff the individual cups with the sawdust soaked in one or more of the chemical solutions. Set the little cups among the kindling and watch for the various colors to appear.

Campfire Moth Watch

Night-loving moths are more numerous than daylight loving butterflies. There are about 10 times as many moths as butterflies in the world. Not all moths are nocturnal but most are.

On a rainless, windless night tie an old white sheet between two trees. Weight the sheet down with a log or heavy rocks. Shine a light on the sheet. Bait strips of cloth by dipping them into any of the following substances: brown sugar water, honey, molasses, fruit juice, mashed bananas or peaches.

Label or remember what bait you put on the sheet. Every hour quietly visit the sheet to see and record any moth activity. Do the moths prefer one bait over another? Have you attracted more than one variety of moth? Do different species prefer different nectar sources? Try it some night without the light. It might work best for a backyard camp out or campground where you have electricity for your night light.

Most nocturnal moths use moonlight or other sources of light to navigate in the dark. They are often attracted to the blue light of a campfire. This light is similar to the moonlight and the confused moths will often fly around trying to get oriented. In it's exhaustion it will often fly into the flames. You can help by brushing it gently away from the fire.

Moths you may see around the campfire are: Banded Woollybear, Underwing Moth, Tiger Moth, Giant Silkworm Moths (Luna Moth and Polyphemus Moth.)