INSTRUCTIONS FOR SETTING-UP
THE NOMADICS 8 FT. SIOUX TIPPI

TIPI HISTORY:

These instructions follow exactly the method that the Native American Indians used to set-up their tipis more than 200 years ago. From tying the tripod to setting the smoke flap poles, you will be learning to set up your tipi by using the same traditional techniques as did the originators of this unique nomadic shelter.

Before you begin use the check list below to be sure you have received everything you will need to set-up your tipi. See photograph #1 above for each lettered item.

A. 22 tipi pole sections, 4 ft. long each.
B. 11 plastic tipi pole connecting sleeves, 6 inches long each.
C. Your 8 ft. tipi cover with two Buffalo Shield designs, one on each side.
D. 6 wooden lacing pins, 10 inches long each.
E. One piece of nylon cord, 8 ft. long.
F. 10 tent stakes, 6 inches long each.
G. 2 imitation Eagle feathers and decorative plumes.
Begin setting your tipi up by first putting your tipi poles together using the plastic tipi pole connecting sleeves (see B in photo #1). Slide one end of a 4 ft. tipi pole into the 6 inch plastic sleeve. Slide the pole only halfway into the 6 inch sleeve (approximately 3 inches). See photo #2. Now slide the end of another 4 ft. pole into the other end of the 6 inch sleeve. See photo #3. The 4 ft. tipi sections should join in approximately the middle of the 6 inch plastic sleeve. You now have one 8 ft. tipi pole. Join all the tipi pole sections together in this same way. You will have a total of 11 tipi poles when you are finished.

Now lay two 8 ft. tipi poles side by side and measure up the poles 74 inches. See photo #4. Make a mark on both poles at this point. See photo #5. Lay out one more tipi pole and put a mark on this pole at 86 inches. See photo #6. Now lay this last pole across the first two poles as shown in photo #7. Lay this last pole so that the mark you have made on it is centered on the top of the marks you made on the first two poles. See photo #8.

Now tie these three poles together using the 8 ft. nylon cord (E photo #1). See photos 9 thru 13. Start by tying a secure knot around all three poles.
Notice in photo #9 that you only need to use about 12 inches of cord for wrapping around the poles and tying your knot. Now take the remaining long end of the cord and wrap it around the poles three times (see photo #11) and tie another secure knot on the poles using both ends of the cord. See photo #12. When you have finished tying your poles together label them “A” “B” and “D” as you see in photo #13. Your tipi “tri-pod” poles are now permanently labeled and marked so that you will not need to measure them again each time you set-up the tipi.

To set-up the tipi tri-pod simply stand in the middle of the triangle formed by the poles (see photo #14) and stand the poles up vertically while keeping the ends of the poles touching the ground. See photo #15. Pole “A” should be on your left and pole “D” should be on your right with pole “B” in between A and D. See photo #15.

Now, without allowing pole D or pole B to move, push pole A straight back and away from you and then gently swing it around and behind poles B and D. Now set the end of pole A on the ground. See photo sequence #15, 16 and 17. Position pole A as shown in photo #17. Your tipi tri-pod is now set-up. The method you have just used is exactly the same as the Native American Indians used 200 years ago!
Notice that the remainder of the 8 ft. cord is now hanging down from the middle of the tri-pod tie point. You will use this remaining cord later to tie all the tipi poles together. (To experience what remarkable strength your tipi tri-pod has, give a few good strong downward pulls on the nylon tie cord.)

In photo #18 notice the position of pole D. This pole is labeled D because it is just to the left of where your tipi Door Hole Entrance will be when the tipi is set-up. See photo #31. Pole D is called the Door Pole.

By holding your three tri-pod poles just below the point where you tied them together you can lift the tri-pod up and move it to the exact location where you want your tipi to be set-up. Turn your tri-pod so that pole D is just to the left of where you would like to have your door hole entrance. See photo #31.

You are now ready to adjust your tri-pod poles (A, B, and D) to their exact final positions. See the illustration labeled Tipi Pole Floor Plan. Notice in the illustration that the shape of the tipi floor is not a perfect circle. The tipi floor is egg-shaped with the back part of the floor between A and B being larger and more round than the front portion of the floor up near the door pole D.
TIPi HISTORY: Since your 8 ft. tipi is an exact replica in miniature of an authentic Native American tipi the floor shape is the same as that of a full size tipi. The floor is egg-shaped because the tipi was not a perfect cone in shape. The tipi was longer in the front and therefore the front had a more gradual angle than the back of the tipi. The back of the tipi was shorter and much steeper than the front of the tipi. See photo #40. This created an asymmetrical cone that was rounder in the back and more pointed in the front. This asymmetrical shape accounts for the egg-shaped floor. There were three very good architectural reasons for this shape. First, the prevailing wind direction in the Great Plains was from the West. Because of this wind direction and also because of the importance of facing the rising Sun, the Native Americans faced their tipi door hole to the East. Therefore, they designed a longer, more sloping angle to the poles in the front of the tipi so they would act as a brace against the West winds that often pounded against the back of the tipi. Second, this steeper back wall afforded more head-room in the rear of the tipi which was therefore the main living area of the tipi. And third, the sloping angle of the front leading up-ward to the smoke hole helped create air currents that eliminated smoke from the tipi.

Now measure the distances between poles A, B and D according to the Tipi Pole Floor Plan illustration. A to B is 63 inches. B to D is 81 inches. D to A is 74 inches. See photo #18. Your tri-pod poles are now set. Be sure they do not move as you finish setting up your tipi.

Now place the rest of the tipi poles into the tri-pod framework. See photo #19. You begin with pole #1 placing it to the right of the door pole (D). Place the bottom of the pole on the ground and lean it into the front of the tri-pod. See photo #20. It is helpful at this point to place pole #1 29 inches from the door pole (D). See photo #20. Following the numerical order on the Tipi Pole Floor Plan, place poles #2, #3, and #4 into the front of the tri-pod. See photo #21. Notice that poles #1 and #2 are placed to the right of the door pole (D) and that poles #3 and #4 are placed to the left of the door pole. See photo #21.
Place all these poles 29 inches apart as shown on the Tipi Pole Floor Plan. Now place pole #5 in the back of the tri-pod. Photo #22 is taken from the back of the tipi tri-pod. Notice the space along the ground between pole #5 and pole B in photo #22. This space will be filled with the Lift Pole when you put the tipi cover around the poles (see photo #29).

Now that all but 3 poles are in the framework, take the remainder of the nylon cord and gently but firmly wrap it around your cluster of poles so you have a good snug bundle. Tie it off to the other end of the nylon cord or to one of the tri-pod poles (A, B, or D). See photo #23. You should have only three tipi poles left that have not been put in the tri-pod.

Now you are ready to put the tipi cover around the poles. Lay one of the three remaining poles down the middle of the tipi cover. Be sure you are laying the pole on the inside of the tipi cover. The inside is the side without the Buffalo Shield Design. If you do not have room to spread out the cover, simply locate the lift pole flap (photo #24) and lay the pole across the gathered canvas in approximately the middle of the tipi. Measure up the pole 75 in. and make a mark. See photo #24. It is a good idea to write “Lift Pole” on this pole so you will not need to measure it again.
Locate the lift pole string that passes through the lift pole flap, photo #25. Place the mark on the “Lift Pole” directly over the lift pole string and tie the tipi cover to the lift pole at this point. See photo #25 and 26. It is important to wrap the string around the lift pole flap and the lift pole three or four times with very tight bindings and to finish it off with a good tight knot. This will prevent the tipi cover from slipping down the lift pole when you place the tipi into the tri-pod. (See photo #28)

Refer again to the Tipi Pole Floor Plan. Notice that the lift pole goes at the very back of the tipi between pole #5 and pole B. See photo #22. Also notice that the lift pole is in perfect line with the center of the Door Hole Entrance. Now gather the canvas around the lift pole, photo #27. Set the bottom of the lift pole in its proper position according to the Tipi Pole Floor Plan and lean it into the tri-pod, photo #28. Space the bottom of the lift pole 24 inches from pole #5 and 24 inches from pole B.

Using the Tipi Pole Floor Plan, check to see if your poles are approximately in the correct positions, photo #29. Your poles will move some when you put the tipi cover around them. This does not matter at this time.
Once the tipi is up and you have staked it down you can make all your final adjustments.

Pull the tipi cover around the poles and join the two sides at the door hole entrance. See photo #30 and 31. Remember that the door pole (D) is on the left of the door hole. See photo #31.

Using the six wooden lacing pins (D photo #1) lace the front of the tipi together starting from the top button holes. See photos #32, 33, 34, and 35. Notice that the lacing pin is pushed through the right-hand button-hole on the right-hand side first. Photo #32. Then it is passed through both of the button-holes on the left-hand side of the tipi. See photo #32. Now you bring both sides of the tipi cover together, photo #33, and then you go through the left-hand button-hole on the right-hand side. See photo #34. The tipi cover is now laced together, photo #35. Continue on down the tipi with the lacing pins. Don’t forget the two underneath the door hole. See photo #36.

To stake the tipi down, place a tent stake (F photo #1) in a stake loop and pull the tipi cover out toward you as you hammer the stake in the ground. See photo #36. Begin by putting in the stakes on both sides of the door hole at the front of the tipi.

After staking, go inside and twist and push the tipi poles outward, snug against the cover.
The two remaining tipi poles are called Smoke Poles. They are used to support and maneuver the Smoke Flaps. Place the end of one smoke pole into the triangular Smoke Flap Pocket at the tip of the smoke flaps. See photo #37. Push the smoke pole upwards to open and support the smoke flap and then place the bottom of the smoke pole on the ground about 4 to 8 inches from the edge of the tipi. See photo #38. Once the smoke poles are set your tipi is complete. See photo #39 and 40.

**TIP! HISTORY:** Walk around to the side of your tipi as in photo #40. Now it is easy to see that the tipi is not a perfect cone but is a "tilted-cone". The back is straighter and the front is more sloping. The opening between the smoke flaps is known as the Smoke Hole. The smoke flaps are essential for eliminating smoke from the tipi. By changing the position of the smoke flaps a partial vacuum can be created at the top of the tipi thus drawing the smoke out of the tipi. This is done by maneuvering the smoke poles so that the smoke flaps point in the direction the wind is going. See photo #41. Here the wind is blowing from left to right. Both smoke flaps are pointed to the right, or "downwind". During a rain this procedure is simply exaggerated a bit so that the top smoke flap covers the smoke hole, but still provides a narrow opening above the smoke hole allowing the smoke from the fire to escape. Photo #42, 43, and 44.
INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUTTING ON THE 8 FT. TIPI DOOR COVER

The bottom of the door cover ties to the stake loops in front of the tipi door hole. See the photograph at left. Tie the bottom door cover ties to the stake loops "A" and "B". The tie at "B" on the bottom right-hand corner of the door should be untied when going in and out of the tipi. All the other door ties remain tied once the door cover has been put on.

The top of the door cover goes up on the inside of the tipi. The tie at the top middle of the door cover ties around the middle of the second lacing pin above the door at "C". See the photograph at right.

The ties on the top corners of the door cover tie to the tipi poles on each side of the door hole.
During a downpour the flaps can be completely closed. See #45-48.

To prepare the Eagle feathers first tape the plumes to the base of the feather, photo #49. Then loop a piece of colored fabric over the end of the quill and tape using string or thread. Hang the feathers from the tipi poles or the ends of the smoke flap pockets. See photo #50.

Care of your tipi: If you live in an area of extremely high or low humidity, your tipi poles may change diameter after a few years. If they become too small for the 6 in. plastic connector sleeve simply wrap the end of the poles with masking tape to provide a snug fit into the plastic sleeve. If the poles swell, sandpaper them back down so they fit snugly into the plastic sleeves again.

If you accidently tear your tipi it is easily repaired by sewing canvas or strong fabric over the torn area. Or, send it to us postage paid and we will be glad to repair it for you for a small fee.

WE SINCERELY HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR 8 FT. TIPI!!

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