

How to Set Up a Tent

ODC employs several makes and models of tents. This guide contains instructions for setting up all of them. Please let the officers know if you feel this document is not up to date.

Choosing a Tent Spot

The ground tarp (if present) or the tent body can be spread out and used to test the site size for suitability. The tent should be on even ground, ideally on an impacted site or area with no vegetation. If there is a slant to the site make sure to put the head space of the tent uphill and the feet space down hill. Some tents are more symmetrical so this is less of an issue. Look out for drainages that might funnel water into your tent area or signs of recent flooding. You should set up your tent below the tree line when at all possible. According to LNT principles your tent should be 200 feet from water and trails in the backcountry.

Setting Up Your Tent

Most tents come with a rainfly, a tent body, poles and stakes. Some might also have a ground tarp. You will place the ground tarp down if available and then the tent body right on top. Unpack the poles and connect them, they should snap into place especially if the elastic is fresh. Most tent poles are color coordinated in some way with the tent body to help with set-up. Connect your poles to the corners of the tent and then clip on the tent body to the poles. At this point you should have a good sense of the tent shape. Next attach the rainfly to the corners of the tent body and make sure the zippers are zipped. Then begin staking out your tent. Starting with diagonal corners can help create the right amount of tension as you stake out, not too much but not so little that the tent sags anywhere. Often you will be able to stake out the vestibule of the tent and some midpoints on the sides.

Weatherproofing Your Tent

If you put on the rainfly it will not rain! This is just science. Also staking out your tent so there is good tension all around will help the water bead off instead of collecting. You can use the small lines attached to your tent to also secure the tent to trees or stake it out more extensively in case of high winds. Try to orient your tent so the small side is facing the wind.

Taking Down Your Tent

Simply do what you did to set up your tent in reverse. Make sure to collect all the stakes and scrape the dirt from them. If the rainfly is wet you can shake it out with a partner before it goes in your pack or the car. As always DRY IT OUT immediately once you get back from a trip or if you are out longer, when the sun reappears.

Tent Models

- MSR Hubba Hubba (2p)
- Instructions on bag

- http://media.cascadedesigns.com/pdf/10_HubbaHubba_EN.pdf
- MSR Pappa Hubba (4p)
 - Instructions on bag
 - http://media.cascadedesigns.com/pdf/Instructions_PapaHubba_Web_EN_2014.pdf
- MSR Elixir (4p)
 - Instructions on bag
 - https://cache.tradeinn.com/images/pdf/manuales/eng_msr_manu_elixir4.pdf
- Mountainsmith Bear Creek (4p)
 - No instructions on bag/tag
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKpK4efJ4zY>
- Alps Mountaineering Helix (2p)
 - Instructions on tag
 - <https://mountainsforeverybody.com/alps-mountaineering-backpacking-tents-helix>
- Marmot Tungsten (2p)
 - Instructions on tag
 - https://s7d2.scene7.com/is/content/marmot/setup_instructions_Tungsten%202P3P.pdf
- Mountain Hardwear Lightwedge (3p)
 - Couldn't find instructions but pics online
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_Y9xTIYWuA
- REI Camp Dome (4p)
 - Instructions on bag
 - <https://www.rei.com/media/788ca42b-c891-4a49-9365-4257a6de9763>
- Nemo Galaxy (2p)
 - Instructions on tag
 - <https://www.aventurenordique.com/media/catalog/product/m/o/mode-emploi-tente-nemo-galaxi-2p.pdf>
- Kelty Gunnison (3p)
 - <https://www.manua.ls/kelty/gunnison-32/manual>
- Nemo Dagger (2p)
 - Instructions on tag
 - <https://www.aventurenordique.com/media/fichierpdf/notice-montage-dagger-2p-nemo.pdf>
- Nemo Wagontop (8p)
 - Instructions on tag
 - https://cdn.accentuate.io/41161907142829/1641851375774/Wagontop-8P_Instructions_NEMO2022.pdf?v=0
- Kelty Thunder Head (6p)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xVTxUuWnLs>

- Maybe there's something on the bag?
- Eureka Tetragon (All)
 - <https://eurekacamping.johnsonoutdoors.com/sites/default/files/2022-09/TETRAGON578909IM.pdf>