

Buying a Camp Stove/Lamp

Troop 518 Training

Thinking of buying your son some camping equipment for his next birthday? That's a great idea, but know that BSA policy says Scouts under the age of 14 may not have or operate camping equipment that burns liquid fuel. Liquid fuels are those poured from an open container into the device. Examples would be lamps or stoves that burn Coleman fuel or pure alcohol. Young men just don't realize the potential hazard of lighting a stove when it is wet with sloshed fuel. Or worse yet, lighting a match when liquid fuel has spilled onto their clothing. Alcohol is a particular concern since it burns clear, because no one will be able to tell your son is on fire.

Liquid Fuel Warning

Please help us keep your son safe. Don't stop grandma and grandpa from buying that stove or lamp. Just make sure it uses pre-filled, disposable fuel canisters, such as propane or butane, or solid fuel tablets. [Our preference is that NO ONE bring liquid fuel stoves or lamps on Troop campouts.](#)

There are plenty of very fine, one-person backpacking quality stoves and lamps available at Sports Authority, Galyans, or REI. Our only advice is that some Scouts might prefer a fuel system that offers both a stove and a lamp so he doesn't end up carrying two different types of fuel on a campout. If this is the case then there are several butane and butane/propane systems available. The addition of butane to the fuel supposedly makes it better for very cold temperatures.

Not every Scout will want a gas lamp. If this is the case, then there are several stove systems that use Sterno and other solid fuels to consider. Solid fuels are cheap, do not leak, it is unaffected by low temperatures, and the stoves are small enough to fit in your pocket. However, solid fuels do not have the heating ability of pressurized liquid fuels. Therefore, cooking times may increase. It is also very important to use solid fuel stoves away from the wind. They are not recommended for patrol cooking.