

How to Build a Quinzee

History

The word 'quinzee' or 'quinzhee' is of Athabaskan origin. A quinzee is a Canadian winter shelter which is made from snow that is shaped and hollowed. They can be built for survival purposes, winter camping, or for fun!

Instructions

Step 1: Make a Pile of Snow

Shovel a pile of snow that is about 5-7 feet tall and 6-10 feet in diameter

Step 2: Shape the Snow

Shape the snow into a rounded mound

Step 3: Let it 'Sinter'

'Sintering' your shelter is the process of hardening the snow through heat and pressure so that it refreezes stronger. Simply let your quinzee sit for 1.5- 2 hours and take some time to warm up with a hot chocolate!

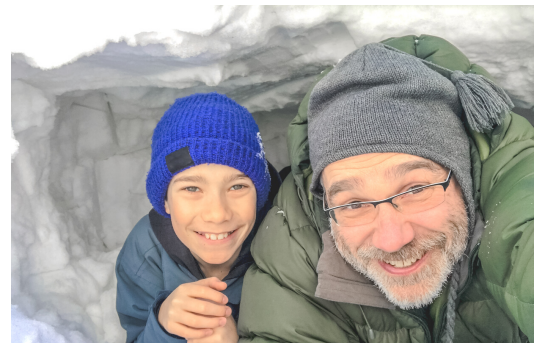
Step 4: Hollow Out your Shelter

Carve out the inside of your shelter. Start by making an entrance on the downhill side of the pile. Then, remove the snow from the inside of the dome and make sure your ceilings are no thinner than 12 inches. Some people poke sticks through the top of the quinzee to help create an even thickness.

Step 5: Add the Final Touches

Add a hole on the top of your quinzee for ventilation. Take time to make your quinzee feel like home by building a sleeping platform and adding decorations. Inspect your quinzee to make sure it is safe before using it.

Step 6: Enjoy!



Photos by Marc Dufresne



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