

Tipi Construction (for 16 ft Tipi)

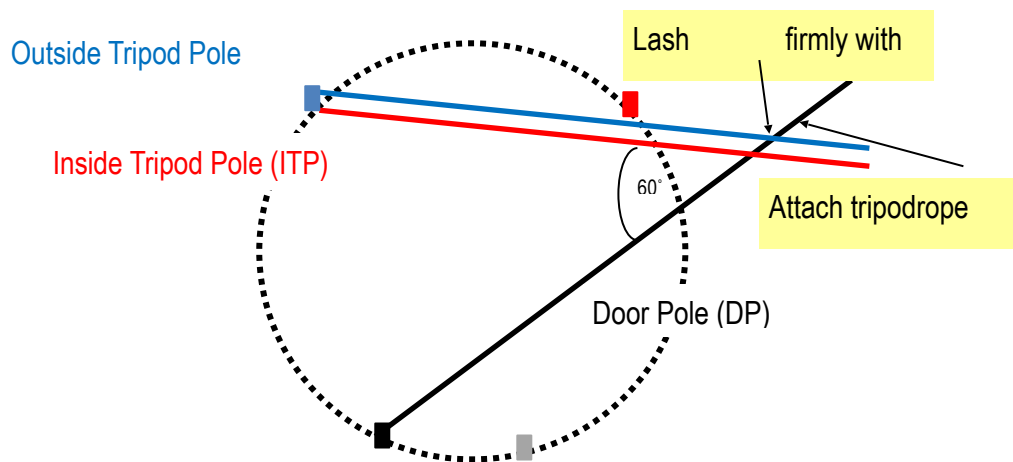
(*thi: dwell; pi: they. Lakota language*)

1. Select a suitable site for your tipi (approximately 5m²).
2. Decide which way the entrance of the tipi will face.
 - East to greet the morning sun.
 - West to farewell the day.
 - Into the centre of the group.
3. Lay the circular floor out in the space. This provides a guide to how wide the tipi is. Poles will actually be approximately 30cm wider than this groundsheet.



POLE FRAME

4. To the right of the selected site, lay the Door Pole (DP) under the inside and outside tripod poles as indicated below. Use the markings on the poles to cross the poles at the correct position. (The markings should ensure that the rain drippers are facing in when the tripod is raised but this can be fine tuned when erected.)



5. Connect the poles using the length of rubber lashing them together, or using the square lash with a 10 mm nylon mooring rope or similar. This should be relatively firm but not tight. Do not use a reef knot with rubber strip, to finish leave a half bow.
6. Attach tripod rope on the DP using a clove hitch above the ITP and OTP.



7. Lift poles into position by:
 - 1st person- pulling on the rope attached to the DP.
 - 2nd person- lifting at join of poles and walk towards centre of circle.
 - 3rd person- stands on the base of double tripod poles to stop it from lifting off the ground.
 - 4th person- stand at DP to assist in any movement.
 - 5th person- keep watch as safety person to communicate and step in where needed.



8. Stand the tripod up. This should now safely stand by itself. Looking at the Door Pole (DP) it should look like an even triangle. Check that the Door Pole (DP) lays to the right of the inside and outside tripod poles. Inside Tripod Pole (ITP) crosses under the Door Pole (DP). (See picture) Check that the rubber drippers are on the inside of the tripod. Spin the poles carefully if needed.

*If it is windy peg down each tripod pole at this stage.

9. Working to the right of the Door Pole (DP) place the second Door Pole (Equi or equalizer pole).

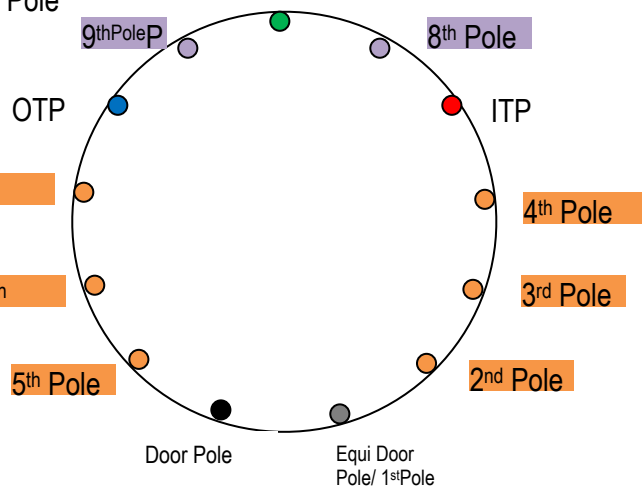
10. Tie coloured material "Values" on ends of Filler Poles

11. Keep working to the right or anti clockwise place the filler poles. There should be 3 poles in addition to the Door Pole (DP). **Be aware that the last filler pole can slip and fall so have someone hold it until it is locked in by the next pole.**

12. From the first Door Pole (DP) place the filler poles to the left or **Lifting** clockwise. There should be 3 poles between the Door Pole (DP) and the Outside Tripod Pole (OTP).

13. The back Poles 8 and 9 need to slide into the gap between the inside and outside tripod poles. Looking from the back of the tipi:

- Pole on the left (pole 8) goes in the gap to the left of the Door Pole (DP).
- Pole on the right (pole 9) goes in the gap to the right of the Door Pole (DP).



14. Pick up the tripod rope extending from rubber lashing. Starting at the DP walk on the outside of the tipi in a clockwise direction with rope wrapping it close to the join. Always pull tension when standing in front of the door. Traditionally, the ropes would be wrapped around four times (one for each wind direction – north, south, east and west).
15. The final tie wraps around the tripod poles only, starting and finishing at the Door Pole (DP). Tie down with a rolling hitch on the Door Pole (DP) at about shoulder height.



RAIN SHEET

16. Place the rain sheet upside down on the ground (bamboo spans to the ground) near to where the lifting pole goes into the frame. The rope at the top of this rain sheet will eventually be about 70cm below the top of tipi canvas.
17. Lay the lifting pole on top of the rain sheet and attach the rope at the rain sheet mark. Leave a bit of string between the rain sheet and the pole so that it can swing but tie the knot tight so it doesn't slip.



TIPI CANVAS

18. Lay the canvas on the lifting pole and using the rope at the top of the tipi canvas, tie at the upper mark. The distance from bottom of hem dead centre back to tie point at top of tipi + 50mm or gap required from hem to ground
19. Place the bottom end of the lifting pole into position. Following the steps below lift the lifting pole complete with canvas and rain sheet into position.
 - One person stands on the base of the lifting pole using a foot to support the pole. A second person helps this person to pull the pole up by grabbing the canvas.
 - 2 other people help to raise the top of the pole into the gap to left of Door Pole (DP) (making sure the rain sheet doesn't get caught up).
20. Unfurl the canvas around to the door (if it doesn't join, adjust the circumference of tipi by moving tripod poles and/or lifting the lifting pole a bit). Go inside the tipi and move each pole to line up with each eyelet and make sure each pole is roughly even.
21. Insert lace pins (the right panel lays over the left panel or wide holes on outside). Insert the pin in the left hole first and then through the right). Practice on the bottom hole but start from the top and work down.



(With the Nomadic Tipis- the left panel sits on top of the right panel)

22. The long thin piece of canvas extending from the rain sheet, comes out the door opening and attached to a pole/star picket out the front.
23. Last 2 smoke poles are slotted into the corner of the smoke flap that extends from front of tipi. Tie the strings from the bottom of the smoke flaps to the same pole as the rain catcher.
24. Tie the door to the door poles inside the tipi. The flaps sit outside the tipi.
25. Make any final adjustments to poles. This may take 2 – 3 laps of the tipi.
26. Peg out the bottom of tipi using the ropes at the bottom of the canvas.
(With the Nomadics Tipis you can pass the tent peg directly through the loops situated around the bottom of the tipi hem.)
Start at the front first , then the back tri-pod poles. Then halfway between the front and the back tripod poles. Then start pegging inbetween. In this way you can pull the canvas down evenly. Much like tightening the lugs on a car wheel.

Good luck!!

27. If it looks like rain...

Extra protection can be obtained by placing the Tipi rain cone on top of the crows nest. This can be tricky and fun! Using one of the smoke-flap poles, insert the tip into the inside of the cone. Pull out the strings that are attached to the bottom edge of the cone. Stand the pole up straight next to the tipi and have your friends hold the end of each string. Now the idea is to lift the cone over all the poles extending from the tri-pod. The strings should not be crossed over and can be used to help keep the edge of the cone from getting caught on the poles.

Two of the strings come down the front either side of the smoke-flaps and the other two come down the back , around where the back tri-pod poles are situated. Tie the end of the strings off to the tent pegs at these locations.

It's a challenge! Work together and talk each other through it, remember that those on one side of the tipi can't see those on the other side, and the person holding the pole will need to be advised when its clear to lower the cone on to the crows nest so that the rim of the cone clears all the poles..



Enjoy!

TIPI DE-CONSTRUCTION

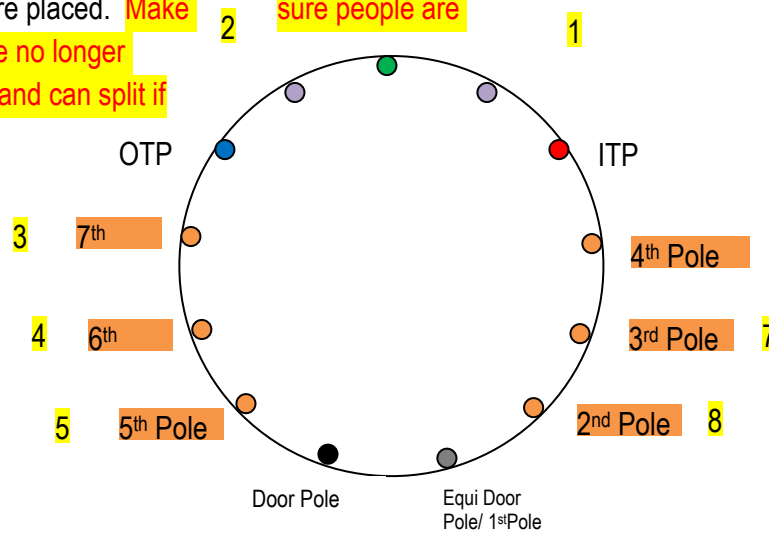
1. Untie ropes from pegs. Pull out pegs and place in bag.
There should be 15. Try to remove peg from loop by passing the top hook part of the peg through the loop, rather than dragging the whole peg through the loop which will leave dirt on the loop. **(There will be 25 pegs per nomadic tipi)**
2. Undo door. Roll up and secure with ropes on the door piece.
3. Remove Lace pins. Place in bag. **There should be 8.**
4. 2 people per side work together to fold-roll the canvas about 20 cm wide back around the tipi frame back to the lifting pole.
5. Undo the rain sheet from peg/star picket.
6. Everybody assist with the lowering of the lifting pole. One person place foot on the bottom of the pole to hold it in place. Hold the canvas in place as you lower carefully to the ground. If ground is wet or sandy, place floor tarp under canvas and lifting pole before you lower the tipi to the ground. **Keeping the tipi out of the dirt.**
7. Untie the tipi canvas and rain sheet from lifting pole.
8. Tipi canvas sides folds over on itself. Then folds into 3rds into a tight package and secured by the ropes at the top of the tipi. It should be small enough to fit in the bag.



9. Fold the rain sheet. Secure using the rope at the top.
10. Untie and uncoil the tripod rope. **People should be holding poles so they don't unexpectedly slide.**
11. Remove the poles in the reverse order they were placed. **Make sure people are holding poles. Some poles will slide as they are no longer secured by other poles. The bamboo is fragile and can split if not lowered carefully.**

12. **Sort the poles into 3 bundles;**

- 1 - Tripod, Equi Door, (4 poles)
- 2- Lifter and back poles,(8 and 9), and Smoke Flap Poles;(5 poles)
- 3 – All rest of the filler poles.(6 poles)



2. All hands on deck for the lowering of the tripod.
 - 1st person- hold the tripod rope
 - 2nd person- lifting the ITP walk towards OTP with pole.
 - 3rd person- stands on the base of OTP to stop it from lifting off the ground.
 - 4th person- stand at DP to assist in any movement.
 - 5th person- keep watch as safety person to communicate and step in where needed.
3. Lower to the ground carefully.
4. Untie the tripod rope and rubber lashing.
5. Sort gear **NEATLY** into appropriate piles and bags.
6. Coloured material “Values” go with students.

TRAVEL WELL!!