

April, 2023

Dear Rabbitstick Students and Staff!

Has spring sprung in your area? It's only about four months until September when we're together again for Rabbitstick 35! Are you aware that *registration is now open*? The early registration ending date with a discount, has been changed to August 1st. However, it may close early again if too many are attempting to register! Check the dates carefully, September 10th-16th in Idaho. As always, I can't wait to see all of you and learn what has been happening in your world.

As preparations for 2023 continue, some things will be the same but some exciting new ideas are coming to fruition that should be so much fun.

As always, it's exciting to start thinking about what you have for the **"Trade Blanket"** on Tuesday night. Wednesday may have a presentation or slide show and of course many go to the hot springs. Thursday is **"Mask Night"** – join us this year for our special 35th anniversary **"Year of the Hat"** by putting on your most creative hat and dance to the drums around the fire.

Here's what's new ...Did you ever take a class from Steve Watts called ABO 101? If you did, then, you'll remember how it covered a huge range of human behaviors through the centuries in a fun and understandable format. New this year, there will be a legacy class in honor of Steve, called **Aboriginal Tech 101** with many of the staff involved out in the woods and fields with demos and presentations. Please try to attend this all-day class as it will make all the core classes of cordage, combustion, cutting, cover and containers have a much greater relevance of how our own ancestors adapted to their changing environments to survive.

Do you remember during Rabbitstick 2022, Alice Tulloch spoke about the "Five Cs of Rabbitstick"? Beyond the talented staff that bring you a plethora of classes, Rabbitstick also embodies these five Cs: context, community, competence, courage and contribution and that's what make the Rabbitstick experience unique and amazing, each and every year!

So, you might also remember Alice had issued **"The 10 Item Rabbitstick Primitive Challenge"**



for 2023 that was inspired by the "Alone" TV series where each participant had only ten items they could bring. This is similar but way, way different!



When you first

look at this "Challenge" it may seem intimidating but really, it's meant to be fun, as well as a way to integrate many of the skills that you already know. The overnight can be in the

wilderness or your own backyard. You might not even need to make anything as it's OK if you choose to use things you've made in the past (or those projects that were never completed).

The goal is to integrate your skills and items during your overnight stay and perhaps look at what you know with a new understanding. Tentatively, late Tuesday afternoon, we'll gather by the main fire to display and share how we managed the challenge. What was your outcome? Did it go well? More importantly, what did not? It will give us a totally new perspective and appreciation of what our ancestors needed to know.



OK, students and staff, here is your challenge:

Before Rabbitstick 2023:

1. Make a minimum of 10 items using primitive skills and materials. These should include combustion, cutting, cordage, cover and containers.
2. Go out to a wildish place and
 - Make a shelter
 - Make a fire
 - Make a meal
 - And stay overnight
3. Additional modern equipment is okay as the location, safety and weather requires. For example, appropriate clothing, sufficient water in appropriate container or a water filter, sleeping blankets or bag, headlamp. Be safe out there.
4. Consider including foraging or bringing wild foods as well.
5. No electronics except a camera.
6. The goal is not a survival challenge, but integrating your primitive skills into a thrival experience. Take your skills to the next level.

Then, at Rabbitstick, for our contribution to the community, we'll gather for sharing our after-action reports and displaying the 10 items we made. Prepare a 5 minute presentation, including the context of the things you made.

Hmmm. Can my warm and cozy capote be my cover??

Well my friends, I hope you've made plans to join us September 10th-16th in Rexburg, Idaho. As we've mentioned in the past few years, you're all considered **"Fire-Keepers"**. All the skills and ideas you've learned at Rabbitstick shouldn't just end in your mind. It's important to share with your family, friends and co-workers. Perhaps you can ask them to join you in your 10 Item Rabbitstick Primitive Challenge!

See you in September! Hugs, Janet Snyder (a.k.a. Camp Mom)

P.S. Since Alice will be out hiking all summer, Candy has volunteered to be the contact person for questions about the challenge. Email **Candy** at southerntricksters@gmail.com

P.P.S. Don't forget to download the "Challenge" that's attached.