

Use these tips to help prevent wildfires this coming dry season

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foot radius.

• Have a charged garden hose or a fire extinguisher, and a shovel, available at the burn site.

Using a burn barrel to dispose of backyard debris can reduce the risk of wildfire. But make sure that your burn barrel has these features:

• All-metal construction in good condition. In addition to inspecting the walls of the barrel, check the bottom to ensure it hasn't been weakened by rust.

• Three evenly spaced,

three-inch square vents spaced evenly around the rim near ground level. Each vent must be backed by metal screen.

• Metal top screen with mesh size of one-fourth inch or finer.

• Stir your burning material often to introduce new oxygen.

When burning backyard debris, think small. Whether it's a burn barrel or a pile, limit the quantity of limbs, twigs and other yard waste that you put on the fire at one time. As material is consumed, add small additional amounts. This will keep the flame lengths short and reduce the chance of sparks car-

rying off-site.

Even though a burn barrel does a better job of containing sparks, a small fire is still the way to go. Flame length is not curtailed by the top screen. And, building the fire large can raise the burning temperature, shortening the service life of the barrel.

To ensure that a backyard debris burn is really out, follow these steps:

• Drown the fire with water, turn over the ashes with a shovel and drown it again. Repeat several times until it is dead out.

• Check the burn area regularly over the next several days.

• At the onset of warm, dry weather, especially when accompanied by wind, check the burn area again, even if it is weeks after the burn.

For more tips on safe debris burning, visit Keep Oregon Green on the web, www.KeepOregonGreen.org.

14 to 20? Join Explorer Post #877

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Services have earned team members an unparalleled reputation. The Sheriff's team is often called upon to assist law enforcement agencies throughout the state of Oregon. Our Explorer Post Advisors have also been recent recipients of statewide Search and Rescue awards.

Explorer Post #877 provides young men and women ages 14 to 20 a unique insight into the exciting careers of Law Enforcement, Search and Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services. This program also gives them the opportunity to train and work closely with professionals in each of these fields.

Applicants for Explorer Post #877 must meet and maintain the following minimum standards:

• Age 14 to 20

• Good citizenship record

• Good physical health

• Minimum of 2.3 GPA

• Complete the basic training academy

The Basic Explorer Training Academy is a challenging 200-hour course that teaches basic skills needed to become certified for Search and Rescue in Oregon. The academy also teaches the basic skills needed to ride along with deputies on patrol.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about becoming an Explorer with the Sheriff's Office, please join them at one of the open house events. For more information, contact Sergeant Tygh Thompson, the program supervisor, at 503-846-2744 visit www.co.washington.or.us/SAR

Tips for teen parties, continued

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that you will want to call the parents to confirm they'll be home and that it has their blessing.

At other times, be there when your teen arrives home and make sure all is well.

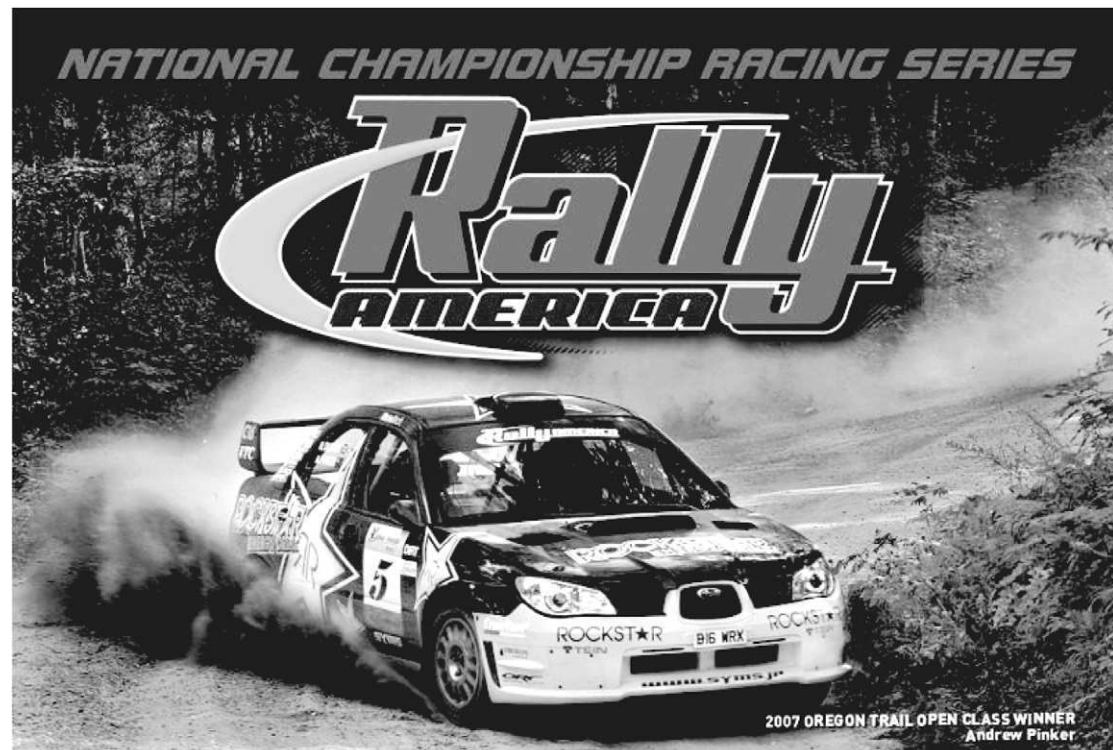
Setting such rules and guidelines works best when you and your teenage child sit down and work them out together. Get your teen's input and offer suggestions on how to handle situations responsibly. You and your teen should agree on penalties when rules are broken.

With a little preparation, the

teen party season can be an enjoyable one for your teen, and a less worrisome one for you.

Source: American Counseling Association

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Day**



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