

## Troop 5 Squad Tent Assembly

The Troop 5 Squad Tents used as dining flies on campouts are composed of a large number of white metal poles that fit together to form a peaked-roof frame, over which sits the canopy (also white). Overall, the tent is 20' X 10' and it takes at least 4 people to assemble it. CAUTION: the tent must be staked down securely when it is set up so that the wind does not lift it and cause damage or injury. It is best to stake it down using two ropes with stakes at each corner and smaller stakes through the feet on the legs at the middle legs.

The poles are color coded with tape to assist in assembling the tent frame. The color code is:

Green – Vertical leg

Blue – Roof peak

Red – Outside edge

Yellow – Sloped connectors between Roof Peak and Outside Edges

Each color-coded pipe has either one or two bands of tape on opposite ends. In assembling the frame, like colors and numbers go together. That is, single stripe Green goes to single stripe Green. Double stripe Red goes to double stripe Red, etc. See the photo below.



Assemble the canopy frame first, using the same color code for the corner pieces as for the poles. There is one set of unmarked poles/corners. These fit together as the “bare pair”. Assemble the legs and lay them around the roof frame at each corner and middle intersections.

Install the canopy on the roof frame before raising the roof frame. Use the bungee cord tie-downs to secure the canopy to the roof frame. The bungee cords go through the grommet holes, around the frame pipe and then loop over the plastic knob on the end of the bungee cord. See the photo below. Also see the caution on the next page.



Do not try to loop the bungee cord through the grommet and then around the plastic knob and then around the pipe. It simply will not work. It is a good idea to store the bungee cords by looping them through the grommets and then around the knob, but they must be undone from the grommets and looped around the poles first when the tent is assembled. During set up, you do not have to secure all the bungee cords before you raise the tent roof unless it is windy. The canopy will stay in place with about half the bungee cords secured. You can then secure the remainder of the bungee cords once the tent has been raised.



Once the tent has been raised, it needs to be staked down securely at all four corners using rope and solid tent stakes. Do not use the simple bent-wire stakes for this. Use real tent stakes, the longer the better. You can use bent-wire stakes to secure the feet at the bottom of each leg but these cannot be the primary method of securing the tent. When driving the smaller stakes in through the feet of the tent poles, drive them at an angle, not straight down. The angle offers a more secure hold should the tent try to lift in the wind.

The canopy can be pulled tight around the frame using the rope that is sewn into the outer edge of the canopy. Each corner has a rope and knob to pull the canopy tight. The canopy should fit snugly around the frame

## **Maintenance issues**

Never put the tent away wet for any length of time (more than a few hours). If it is wet when it is folded up, unfold it and allow it to fully dry back at the garage before storing it long-term. A wet tent will mildew and a) smell horrible; b) greatly reduce the life of the tent.

Clean the poles before you put the tent away. Leaving dirt and water on the pole ends will make it difficult to piece the frame together next time and make it really hard to pull the poles apart. Wipe them off as they are disassembled and put a light coat of oil on them at least annually. Don't use so much oil that it gets all over the canopy. Oil will stain the canopy and will weaken the canopy fabric. WD-40 works just fine. Wipe the inside of the poles, as well, so that both surfaces are coated.

Keep the carrying case clean so you can keep the tent clean. Shake out any dirt, sand or debris that may get in before you store the tent. Don't drag the case on the ground, as this will abrade the case and cause holes to appear. It takes at least two strong Scouts to carry the tent when it is in its case. Four is even better.

Don't lose these instructions. The tent can be a real puzzle without the instructions and the next guy may not know as much about the tent as you do. Put these instructions in the case with the tent when it is packed up. Leave them with the case when the tent is deployed. These instructions can be downloaded from the Troop 5 web site at [www.troop5.com](http://www.troop5.com). They are posted in the Forms and Documents section.

If you have any questions, ask! It is better to ask and do it right the first time than to guess and have to do it over again. Especially if it is raining when you are putting the tent up. Or windy. Or snowing. Or any time. Ask! There are no stupid questions, only dumb mistakes.