

# Fieldcraft Skills

## The 2024 Fieldcraft Challenge



The 2024 Fieldcraft Challenge is on! The challenge is simple - one night each month for the next twelve months, sleep outdoors. You chose the date, you chose the location, and you chose the gear.

Whether you have a back yard, a patio, a deck, or even only a balcony; whether you chose a tent, a tarp shelter, a hammock, or even cowboy style, sleep outdoors.

Each month, take a photograph of your sleep shelter or tent, and post it on the Fieldcraft Academy social media platform.

What's the prize? Nothing. No prize. Just bragging rights. And knowing that you did something that very few people are willing to do. You pushed beyond your comfort zone, and re-connected with the outdoors.

For the first month of the challenge, I selected the "alpha shelter", which is constructed from a military issue poncho, supported with two sets of collapsible poles, forming an elongated dome.

### The Alpha Shelter

The snow was cleared from the area where the alpha shelter is set up, a tarp was placed directly on the ground. Next, an emergency blanket was placed with the foil side up. Then insulating layer and an Army issue closed-cell foam sleeping mat.



### The Set Up

The edge of the ground tarp was folded up under the poncho to prevent rain water and snow from running into the shelter and getting the sleep system wet.

