Use Two Tarps to Make a Group Camping Shelter

Families or a group of friends often want to go camping together. To provide shelter for everyone, one solution is to use multiple small tents or an extra-large single tent. But this solution is expensive. Yuck! Carrying multiple tents or single big tent to your campsite is heavy and bulky. More yuck!!!

A much less expensive and far more portable solution is to use two tarps to create your own big camping shelter. Here is one way to do it!

When I was a Scout many years ago, during a weekend campout I devised a way to put two tarps together to form a single group camping shelter. The other boys in my Troop liked it a lot. One of my Scout friends even named this design after me and called it "Carey's Cabin!" Although I have not seen this specific setup used or described anywhere else, you can find different two-tarp camping shelter designs for groups on the Internet. Or have fun creating your own design!

My setup can easily accommodate at least 4 adults (or maybe more people if some are children) plus their gear. This design builds off the basic shelter I previously described in Backyard Bushcraft issue #13.

On the backside, the 2 tarps overlap and are staked together in the ground. On the front, there is a triangular-shaped opening flap. Inside, there are 3 poles. Notice that I used the "sock-on-the-pole" tip (see Backyard Bushcraft issue #13 for why that is a good idea).

Here are photos that show what it looks like from the back, front, and an inside view:





