

What you will need:

- Volunteers
- Activity Leader
- Outdoor training schedule

Time: 20-30 minutes

Questions? Comments?
Contact the Girl Scout
office nearest you.

Sioux Falls
800.666.2141

Rapid City
800.658.3391

Fargo
877.904.8168

Grand Forks
800.437.4399

Minot
800.279.5306

Bismarck
800.326.4745

www.gsdh.org

Nine Reasons to go Camping

1. **Reconnect with the girls.** Camping is a great way to kick off the new Girl Scout year. You can work with the girls to plan their major activities for the year. You can find out details you might not know about them like who do they admire most, favorite music, etc. Take time to sit around the campfire, singing silly songs and creating memories.
2. **De-stress.** You'll feel the muscles in your shoulders relax if you allow yourself to unwind. Sit in your favorite lawn chair and listen to the sounds of nature. Listen to the conversations your girls are having. You will learn a lot by listening to them chat.
3. **Make memories.** Take along a camera and capture moments to share with family members and friends. Girls can then create scrapbook pages from their last camping trip or past events.
4. **Have fun with purpose.** Use the three process of girl-led, cooperative learning and learning by doing to engage girls in activities like making s'mores or banana boats, hiking or identifying animals. Lead a reflection with the girls to talk about the fun side of you. Let the girls see the fun side of you. See the humor in things that happen. Unexpected things can be the most memorable.
5. **Empower the girls.** Encourage them to show off the skills you have taught them. Sit back and allow them to cook, clean up and prepare program activities. (If there are no safety concerns, let them do it even if their way is different from yours). Allow the girls the opportunity to see what they can accomplish.
6. **Involve everyone.** Have the girls create a Kaper Chart where everyone gets a chance to cook, clean up or take out the garbage. Let the girls guide the camping trip. Let them make the decisions.
7. **Honor group time.** Celebrate this time of being together as a group and having uninterrupted quality time. Take board games and grab the Frisbee. Enjoy each other's company.
8. **Meet new people.** Share a campfire with new people or other Girl Scouts. You will find you have much in common and can develop life-long friendships.
9. **It's an adventure.** There's no time like the present to plan a camping trip they'll never forget. Start out by setting up a tent at your meeting place-have the tent experience inside! Especially for younger girls, this can help them prepare for their first time outdoors in tents. You can even play night sounds on a CD player. Then comfortably progress to camping in the outdoors.



If you are still nervous about taking girls outdoors, try out the new online tool from GSUSA called *Venture Out!* In this engaging learning opportunity, you will have the opportunity to practice planning an outdoor adventure and gain confidence in the outdoors! To access *Venture Out!* visit <http://gsuniversity.girlscouts.org/resource/venture-out/>

Activity – Just For FUN!

One of the things we strongly suggest volunteers need to have when working with girls on a camping trip is their sense of *humor* and *flexibility*. The series of questions below will get your volunteers' minds "pondering". Have them answer each question to the best of their ability and have fun.

1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?

Answer: Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe and then close the door.

- This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.

2. How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?

Did you say, "Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant, and close the refrigerator? Wrong Answer.

Answer: Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and then close the door.

- This question tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your previous actions.

3. The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend.... Except one. Which animal does not attend?

Answer: The elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator. You just put him in there!

- This question tests your memory.

Okay, even if you did not answer the first three questions correctly, you still have one more chance to show your true abilities.

4. There is a river you must cross but it is used by crocodiles, and you do not have a boat. How do you get across?

Answer: You jump into the river and swim across. Have you not been listening? All the crocodiles are attending the Animal Meeting!

- This question tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.