

Camper Badge

Purpose: Know how to have a great overnight camping trip at a campsite, a cabin, or your backyard.

Step 1: Start planning your adventure

Having a campout in your backyard can be an excellent adventure. You get to spend the night surrounded by the great outdoors and do fun activities like singing, cooking outside, exploring nature, and stargazing—all with a flushing toilet nearby! Talk to an adult or older Girl Scout about planning the perfect backyard campout. Ask them what supplies you need, what clothes to wear, what kind of food to eat, and how to cook it. Most importantly, make sure to talk about camp safety.

Step 2: Gain a new camping skill

Learn how to navigate while outdoors using a compass or GPS unit, like a cell phone that can tell you longitude/latitude. Watch tutorials on fire building—one of the oldest and most valuable Girl Scout survival skills—and how to start and extinguish a campfire. If you can't build a real campfire in your backyard, research different fire building methods and practice making them with pretzels (and then eat your creations).

Step 3: Find your inner camp chef

Work with your family to prepare a meal for your backyard campout. Go online and find some camping recipes. Shop for items that you already have in your fridge and pantry. Make a one-pot meal, cook in foil, or make a meal on a stick. After your meal, make s'mores with your family. If you don't have all the ingredients for traditional s'mores, use other ingredients. If you don't have graham crackers, use cookies. If you don't have a campfire, ask your parents if they can help you cook over your barbecue grill. Always remember that when you are cooking over an open fire, cook with an experienced adult.

Step 4: Try a new activity

Camping is a great time to try new activities and discover your new favorite things to do. Have some Leave No Trace fun. Leave No Trace means leaving a campsite looking the same as when you arrived or better. Pledge to protect nature and Leave No Trace on your camping adventure. Make up a fun skit or game to play using one of the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace.

Step 5: Head out on your trip—and have some nighttime fun

The fun doesn't have to end when the sun goes down! After you have eaten your delicious meal and used your new camping skills, settle down to enjoy the magic of camp at night. Gather around the campfire (real or imaginary), tell your favorite stories, gaze at the stars, sing your favorite Girl Scout songs, and play games. You can also play a game of flashlight tag!

Congratulations! You've earned the Camper badge!

Girl Scout Juniors

