

# Seasonal Camping and Outdoor Activities

Camping doesn't have to be reserved for "nice weather". Enjoy these activities while you out and about at every season!

## Fall

- Identify 3 trees at camp
- Identify 3 signs of the season
- Learn why leaves change their colour in the fall
- Learn about dressing for a hike/walk in fall weather
- Get up early and watch a sunrise
- Play a nature or animal game outdoors
- Go for a walk/hike at night to observe the moon and the stars
- See if you can identify a bird nest
- Make a shelter and sleep in it for a night
- Find north without a compass
- Try a new to you method of cooking.
- Prepare a 'change in plans activity' to do on a rainy day. Try it out at camp
- Make a dish using a seasonable vegetable (squash, pumpkin, parsnip, etc.)
- Teach another branch how to tarp their tent
- Learn about geocaching and find or hide a cache
- Plant bulbs of flowers that will bloom in the Spring as a service project to your camp (ask the caretaker for permission if appropriate)
- Use an alternate transportation method to get to your campsite such as hiking/walking, biking, canoeing, or kayaking in to your site
- Learn about dangerous and poisonous plants that are found in your area. How can you identify them?

## Winter

- Identify 3 signs of the season
- Look for and identify animal tracks
- Learn what the Provincial tree is
- Learn how to dress to be outdoors all day in winter
- Go stargazing. Learn/Identify 2-5 objects/constellations
- Play an active game outdoors

- Practice building and lighting a fire in the snow
- Learn about preventing and treating frostbite
- Learn about and try snowshoeing, cross country skiing, tobogganing or skating. Learn about and how to properly fit snow shoes
- Place a crystal of snow or some snowflakes on a piece of black paper. Use a magnifying lens to view the flakes
- Participate in a challenge of your choosing
- Make an outdoor sculpture out of snow or ice
- Go on a hike. What wildlife do you see? What signs of wildlife do you see?
- Make a batch of ice cream outdoors
- Go on a hike. What wildlife do you see? What signs of wildlife do you see?
- Build a bird feeder, can you use entirely biodegradable materials?
- Learn about and preventing Hyperthermia and Hypothermia
- Learn and practise how to refuel a White Gas stove and lantern
- Learn about Avalanche Transceivers
- Use coloured ice cubes to place trail markings

## Spring

- Identify 3 wild flowers at camp. Sketch and color them
- Learn the provincial bird
- Dress and pack properly for a spring hike in the rain. What wildlife did you see? What signs of wildlife did you see?
- Cook a meal or part of a meal on a stove or oven you made.
- Fly a kite
- Go on a polliwog hunt. Carefully collect and watch them, then gently return them to their natural habitat.
- Go home from a hike or camp without losing anything.
- While at camp, practice environmental awareness. What can be done differently at your camp to reach the level of “Leave No Trace” camping?
- While on bike or on foot, look for what winter has left behind (e.g. nibbled twigs) and new signs of spring (e.g. new shoots)
- Create a backyard habitat by making your yard, balcony, school yard or park into a garden that provides essential resources for wildlife. It should include food shelter, water, perches and hiding places for all kinds of wildlife.

- Keep a log of the weather 5 days before your camp, Predict what the weather will be like at camp, or study cloud patterns and learn how they can be used to forecast the weather.
- Build a bat box or bird house for the local community

## Summer

- Identify 4 birds. What is the most identifiable feature of each?
- Learn the Provincial Flower
- Identify 3 signs of the season
- Sleep under the stars for a night or go star gazing. Identify objects/constellations in the sky
- Build a sundial and check it for accuracy. Use it while at camp
- Dress and pack properly for a hike
- Look for and identify animal tracks.
- Go on a scavenger hunt
- Plant a tree and/or have a tree planting ceremony
- Learn about environmental stewardship and how you can make a difference in the world
- Learn about heat stroke and how to stay safe in the sun
- Complete your Girl Guide swimming and boating test
  - Go swimming, canoeing, kayaking or have a beach day
- Make ice cream in either a Ziploc bag or tin can
- Build a sand or rock castle
- Go on a scavenger hunt
- Have a crab walking race, egg tossing completion, or 3 legged race
- Play Nature Bingo
- Do an outdoor service project for your camp
- Lay and follow a trail using trail signs
- Learn about animals that come out at night in your area and in other parts of the world.

## Any Season

- Set up a weather station and record the weather while at camp.
- When it rains, collect enough water to make some tea or hot chocolate.
- Hide a treasure and give at least 5 compass clues to find it.

- Bring a friend to camp. Teach them a camp song.
- Learn 2 new knots and use them.
- Make a tent care bag or two for your unit. They should include directions on how to put up your tents, along with a picture of the tent (laminated or ziplock bag), seam sealer, small piece of soap to lubricate the zipper, needle and thread to repair rips, sand paper to remove rust from pole ends, rags to wipe pegs and poles dry, whisk to sweep out the tent and extra pegs and rope.
- Help prepare a meal that needs no fire.
- With buddy or group be responsible for a flag ceremony.
- Do a Guide's Own or Reflections.
- Participate in a team building game or activity.
- Lead a star gazing activity by teaching how to find some constellations or planets.
- Invite a Link or Trefoil Guild member to visit your camp or meeting to share her camping experiences.
- Go for a hike (Sparks 1-2km, Brownies 2-3km, Guides 3-4km, others 5-6km or more.)
- Make a craft or object from things you find at camp.
- Walk in nature. What do you see? feel? hear?, smell?
- Take part in tent or adventure camps. Spark 1 night, Brownies 2 nights, all others 5 nights (not necessarily consecutive but within a 12 month period).
- Teach an outdoor game to the others in your unit
- Learn to light and refuel a lantern
- Learn how to pack and what to bring to camp. Learn how to take care of your gear at camp. Are you a considerate tent mate?

## In the instant meetings

- As a team make a larger camp gadget to use at camp. Wood storage rack, table, chair, etc.
- Alone make a smaller gadget e.g. wash stand, towel rack, pot hanger for the fire, shoe drying rack.
- Have a race to see who can make a fire and boil some water in a can.
- Make fire starters at you meeting and at camp, which one works better?
- With a buddy play a blindfold game. Identify things by touch or smell.
- Use your compass and learn to do something new with it. Play a game using your new compass skill.
- Learn three ways to light a fire. Practice these safely with adult supervision (i.e. matches, using a fire starter, using a magnifying glass, using flint and steel, etc.)
- Water proof your matches
- Dehydrate food
- Help erect a tarp using a Trucker's Hitch
- Learn how to protect yourself from and treat insect bites.
- Introduce the 10 essentials through games such as “What should you take?”
  - Navigation (map and compass)
  - Signalling device (whistle and mirror or small air horn)
  - Sun protection (sunglasses, sunscreen and lip balm)
  - Illumination (headlamp or flashlight with extra batteries and bulb)
  - Fire-making kit (matches in waterproof container including strike paper from box, fire starter or fuel stick, lighter, candle)
  - Knife (or multi-tool)
  - Nutrition and hydration (extra food gels, energy bars or similar, extra water and a way of treating water)
  - Insulation (extra clothing)
  - Personal first aid kit (including a blister kit)
  - Emergency shelter (orange garbage bag, emergency blanket or similar)

## Add Want More:

- Make a cozy pillow cover or travel pillow to take to camp (for sleeping activities)
- Break in your hiking boots, and learn about foot care, how to prevent blisters, and keeping your feet dry

- Make a high energy treat
- Cook a complete one-pot meal
- Ice cube trail markers
- Cook a tin foil dinner
- Bake an apple or banana boat in the coals of your campfire