

Short and Snappy – Camping Tips



Objective

To provide fun ideas and tips for troops planning a campout.

Length

20 minutes

Materials Needed

Pencils, paper, worksheet (next page)

Information to Share (spend 5 minutes on this section)

Planning a Girl Scout camping trip can be a bit overwhelming. You need to follow policies, make it girl-led, plan for contingencies (rain, etc.), and make sure it's fun. Here are a few tips and ideas to get you started!

1. **Check your policies:** Before planning a camping trip, check Volunteer Essentials and Safety Activity Checkpoints to make sure you have your bases covered. Examples of requirements include: taking the necessary training (Troop Camping 101, CPR/First Aid, and Planning Trips with Girl Scouts); gaining council permission (notification for a 1 night trip is due 2 weeks in advance/application for a 2 or more night trip is due 6 weeks in advance); following transportation policies (Volunteer Essentials); following First Aider and health form policies (Volunteer Essentials); and parent permissions.
2. **Be prepared:** It is, after all, our Girl Scout motto. Make sure to pack a first aid kit, tarpaulin with bungees, matches and fire starters, extra batteries and flashlights, a space blanket, a compass and map or GPS, clothing for changes in weather, and something to do on a rainy day.
3. **Leave no trace:** Make sure to pack out any waste (food or other) unless there is a designated receptacle. Make sure girls know not to collect rocks, leaves, etc., but to leave the area just as they found it.
4. **Soap up your pots and pans:** If cooking over an open fire, putting dish soap on the outside of your pots and pans will save you and the girls hours of scrubbing.
5. **Bring a bandana:** Bandanas have so many uses when camping, including slings, hats, bandages, potholders, strainers, etc. Check out the Bandana Bonanza Short and Snappy for more information!
6. **Disconnect:** Get rid of those devices! Don't let yourself or the girls waste precious time and opportunity in the outdoors by checking their phones for Twitter updates! Turn 'em off!
7. **Pre-pack meals:** Pack your groceries for each meal in one plastic bag before leaving. That way, when it comes time to cook, you just pull one bag out of the cooler and you are ready to go!
8. **Bring sit-upons!** They're great. Have your girls make their own at one of your troop's planning meetings and then bring them on the trip. Check out the Sit-upon Short and Snappy for more information!

Activity (spend 15 minutes on this section)

“Desert Island” Campout!

You and your troop are going camping in the Wasatch National Forest in June. The girls have decided that hiking will be their main activity, and want to camp somewhere “off the beaten path.” The weather forecast for your chosen date has already changed 4 times and is likely to change again.

1. Break up into smaller groups. Each group will have to decide on 8 things to bring on the camping trip and rank them in order of most important to least important.
2. Each group must first make a list of all the problems they feel they could encounter on the trip.
3. Have each individual then make their own list of their 8 most important and necessary items to bring.
4. Then, have groups discuss each person’s list, and deliberate over what is most important.
5. After each group has made their official list of 8 items, share them with the larger group, and explain your decisions.

Use the worksheet below.

Activity Worksheet

Group name: _____

List of possible problems you might encounter on your trip:

Individual list (8 most important items to bring, where 1=most important and 8= least important)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Group list (8 most important items to bring, where 1=most important and 8= least important)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____