

Looking for ideas of activities to do with your troop while at camp? Here's a few to try next time:

- **Take a hike!** Whether the camp property is large or small, there's always something new to discover. Walking the trails is a great way to get a closer look at nature, regardless of a child's age. Practice map-reading skills, compass-reading, and/or using guidebooks.
- **Check out camp activities** – different camps have different programs for you to try – boating, letterboxing, archery, low ropes, geocaching, etc. Know what your options are ahead of time, and book an instructor if you need one.
- **Stargazing** – Everyone enjoys getting out under a clear night sky to gaze up at the stars and planets overhead. If you're not sure, what's what, up there, this [star wheel](#) makes a great craft and a great resource. Also, constellations make great stories – each one has [myths and legends](#) to go along with it. Choose some of your favorites and let story time begin.
- **Cook a meal** completely on the camp fire! This is sure to be a fun and exciting challenge for a troop used to the comforts of home.
- **Make a messy craft!** There's no better place than the great outdoors to get a little dirty. Just remember – a good Girl Scout always leaves her campsite cleaner than she found it.
- **Alphabet Game** - Find a natural object that starts with each letter of the alphabet. The trick is that you can only win this game by finding objects in the correct alphabet order. For a modern variation, give each child a disposable digital camera so they can take photographs of objects that start with the letters A through Z.
- **Create Leaf Rubbings** - A low-tech way to create mementoes without harming the environment is to make rubbings of found objects. Place a leaf with the vein side facing skyward, then put a piece of paper over it and rub it with a crayon until a lifelike sketch of the leaf appears.
- **Check out nearby attractions!** Have your girls do a little research before going to camp. Is there a nearby museum they want to check out? Do it while you're visiting camp!
- **Explore a new part of camp!** Some of our properties have so many hidden treasures. Take an afternoon to explore a part of camp you've never seen before.
- **Play a game** – Many games have little to no equipment needed - Frisbee, horseshoes, ring toss, baseball, corn hole, kan jam, capture the flag, hide and seek, tag, cards, charades, I Spy, etc.
- **Start a fire** - Learning how to safely build a campfire satisfies a child's natural curiosity and teaches them an important survival skill. Daisies and Brownies can help by gathering kindling and twigs, as long as they're supervised and don't get too far from camp. Better still, they can practice starting their own campfires using cereal and marshmallows for a fire ring, and then making a "fire" from shredded coconut topped with stick pretzels, and then candy corn. Older girls can get closer to the action. Demonstrate how to layer tinder and small twigs. Stack larger branches and logs nearby, along with a pail of water. Show them the proper way to light a match, and encourage them to practice their campfire safety skills.
- **Make s'mores!** It's a Girl Scout classic for a reason. For a twist, try adding a smattering of peanut butter to the graham crackers before adding a marshmallow and the chocolate squares. Or, swap the milk chocolate candy bar for chocolate-covered mint patties. A simpler (and sometimes less expensive) alternative is to use chocolate-covered cookies in place of the graham crackers and candy bars.

- **Sing a Song!** If you have visions of singing a good ol' campfire tune, you're definitely on the right track. But don't stop there. Whistle while you gather firewood, hum as you hike or belt out a show tune during dinner. It doesn't really matter what you sing. What matters is that you're modeling a love for music and willingness to have fun to the girls.
- **Tell stories** - Top off the day's activities by telling stories around the campfire. Give everyone a chance to weave a tale, or take the lead role and spin one of your own. Don't know any campfire stories? Web sites like [Ultimate Camp Resource](#) detail campfire tales by genre, from Native American legends to urban lore. Remember, your stories -- like your camping trip -- don't have to be perfect. You'll have lots of stories to tell based on the memories you create, starting right now.