

Ready, Set, Go Camping



What do you think of when you hear the word “camping”? You might think of sleeping in a tent or in a cabin. You might think of hiking in a forest or playing games. You might think of cooking over an outdoor fire. Camping can be a lot of fun when you’re with other Girl Scouts and your leaders.

1. Roll-a-Bag Relay

Play the roll-a-bag relay so you can practice rolling up your sleeping bag or bedroll. You can also use two or more blankets tied together. (See “Making Knots” on page 109 in your handbook.)

Divide into two teams. Each team needs one sleeping bag. The first person runs with a sleeping bag to a line that has been set. She unrolls the bag and runs back to tag the second person. That person must run up to the bag, roll it up, and bring it back to the next person in line, and so on.

2. Bandanna Tricks

A bandanna is a wonderful thing to take on a camping trip. You can do many things with it. Fold a large bandanna so you can:

- Carry your lunch on a hike.
- Bring home the treasure you find on a trail.
- Wear it to keep your hair off your face.
- Wear it as a neckerchief.
- Use it as a cowboy mask on a dusty road.
- Make a hand puppet.
- Use it as a sit-upon.
- Use it as an apron.
- Use it as an emergency bandage.

Can you think of other ways to use a bandanna? In some countries, children carry their things to school in a bandanna. Japanese children call it a *furoshiki*.

Try It!

3. A Camp Stew for You

One-pot meals are easy to make and clean up after when you are on a camping trip. Work with an adult to prepare and cook a meal using this Girl Scout recipe for camp stew. You will need:

- 2 pounds hamburger.
- 1 onion, peeled and cut in small pieces.
- Two 10 3/4-ounce cans of condensed vegetable soup.
- 1/4 teaspoon of salt.
- Wooden spoon for stirring.

1. Add salt to the hamburger meat. Separate the meat into small pieces.
2. Put the meat in the bottom of the pot. Stir it as it heats.
3. When the hamburger is starting to brown, add the onion pieces. Stir the onion pieces until they are soft.
4. Add the vegetable soup and some water. Stir the mixture with a wooden spoon so it doesn't stick to the pot.
5. Cover the pot and cook the meat slowly until it is cooked all the way through. Serve the stew hot.

4. Storm Warning

There are many types of storms. Make up your own "group storm." In a clear space, each person acts out one part of a storm—the wind, thunder, lightning, clouds, rain, snow, hail, etc. Then create a giant storm by having everyone act out a part at the same

time. How will each person's part change as the "weather" changes?

5. Knowing Your Knots

Practice tying a few simple knots before you go on a camping trip. This will help you wrap up your sleeping bag and other gear. Besides, it's a great skill to have!

An **overhand knot** is a knot on the end of a rope. This knot is made with one piece of rope. Follow the steps in the picture on page 21.

A **square knot** is used to tie two ropes together or to tie a package. It is also the knot used to tie a bandanna around your neck. Tie two pieces of rope together, following the steps on page 21.

Remember this poem:

"Right over left and left over right
makes the knot neat and tidy and tight."

6. Hiking Scents

Go on a scent hike.

Ask a pair of girls or an adult to lay out a simple scent trail. They will need an onion or cotton swabs dipped in oil of clove or peppermint oil. Ask them to rub the scents on trees, rocks, or signs. Try to follow the trail by using your nose. What other types of strong-smelling things can be used to make a scent trail?

Create a scent trail for another group of Girl Scouts.