Its Your Trail, Hike It! Camping Capers For Juniors

This document is a Work In Progress.

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From suggestions and conversations contributed to the Yahoo group, 'GSOutdoors'

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JOURNEY SNAPSHOT

Session 1: The Camper In Me

Girls reflect on what camping means to them now and start to explore ways of camping.

- Opening Ceremony / Intro to the awards
- Favorite Memories. Share some troop or family outdoor/camping memories with a scrapbook or multi-media collage.
- Cite, Sight, Site. Read a campsite map to know more about how campsites can vary to suit different needs and natural environments.
- My Kind of Camping. Imagine yourself in your ideal camp setting.
- Enjoy a Camp Snack, i.e. snack on a string necklace.

Enhancements (side-notes, For-More-Fun, profiles, quotes, etc): award-earning tracker; illustration of Dez's collage; sample campsite map; coloring page for Ideal Camp; profile on female ranger/forester.

Session 2: Pack It In, Pack It Out

Girls consider some of the preparations for a successful camp trip. (Recommend earning the First Aid Badge.)

- Power of Seven. Make a beaded bracelet or hike stick decoration for the 7 principles of LNT
- It's In the Bag. Look at checklists and pack a girl's bag for a camp trip.
- One For All. Make a wilderness/campout first aid kit for your group.
- Nature's Bounty. Healthful eating while camping.
- Recipe Maven. Choose one or two recipes to test-run at next meeting.

Enhancements: LNT's 7 principles; sample packing checklists; wilderness first aid kit; scavenging tips; Review safety and activity checkpoints appropriate for camping near a lake, river, or ocean; a few good recipes.

Session 3: Cooking Al Fresco

Girls start to experience outdoor living and gain more skills. (Works with earning the Simple Meals and Camper badges.)

- A Better Campfire. Build at least one type of minimum-impact campfire.
- Now We're Cooking. Test out the recipe chosen at last meeting; use your knife skills.
- Plan a kaper chart to divide the camp duties.
- Comfy Cohabitation. Safely sharing the wilderness with wild animals.

Enhancements: "how-to" for 3 types of min-impact campfires; making/using a box oven; campfire safety checkpoints; sample kaper charts; safe food & trash storage; profiles on outdoor or bbq cooks.

Sessions 4-5: The Best of the Outdoors

Girls explore the adventures to be had out-of-doors. (Works with earning the Camper, Geocacher, Animal Habitats, and Junior GS Ways Badges.)

- Great Games. Try a camping game with your troop.
- Animal, Vegetable or Mineral. Discover natives of your area; recognize poison oak/ivy/sumac.
- Rescue Rangers. Role play scenarios of outdoor first aid.
- Do It Feel It Breathe It. Take it outside: go on a themed hike, try climbing, horse trail ride, present a skit in an outdoor amphitheater, try plein air painting, etc.

Enhancements: 3 camp games; sample native plants & animals and map of where found; photos of poison oak/ivy/sumac at diff times of the year; wilderness first aid instruction; snips from prior GS handbooks.

FIRST AWARD IS EARNED (Discover)

Special Session: GO CAMPING

Session 6: Camping Genius

Girls reflect on their camping experience, review the skills they've learned, and think on how to share that with others.

- Learning from Experience. Make a list of camping tips to share.
- Bag of Tricks. What do you know and how could you help others to have a fantastic time camping?
- Team-building exercise
- Got Skills. Demonstrate some of your skills with a little friendly competition.

Enhancements: worksheets for list of camping tips and "bag of tricks"; sample ideas for skills relays or demonstrations; suggestions to host a field day or visit a Brownie troop to demonstrate outdoor skills.

Session 7: Spread the Word

Girls connect to local outdoor advocates and team up to think of how to get more people outside and camping.

- Learn more about a land preservation or conservancy organization in your area.
- Map it Out. Looking at a road map of your area, find the distances from communities to the nearest campsites. What are the best and worst features of those campsites?
- Natural Benefits.

Enhancements: program bios such as Junior Ranger; Bay Area Wilderness Training and LandPaths; infographic on benefits of camping.

SECOND AWARD IS EARNED (Connect)

Sessions 8-9: Camping Catches On

Girls make a plan to deliver camping to people and people to the outdoors.

- Use the TAP planning guide to develop some ideas.
- Choose a project as a team and make it happen.
- Plan a ceremony

Enhancements: TAP planning guide; profiles of those who lead outdoor activities – climbing, scuba, etc.

Session 10: Time to Caper

Girls reflect on their new skills and camp-abilities.

- Make a new camp-memories collage. Compare to the one made at the beginning of the journey.
- Use creative expression to make souvenirs of your camp-time.

Enhancements: Dez illustrations; SWAPS; quotes from JGL.

THIRD AWARD IS EARNED (Take Action)

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

DISCOVER

Find the Way (or) CAMP

To earn this award, girls will...

- Explore a working campsite and discover the people that make it possible.
- Discover and practice ways to camp while leaving no trace.
- Build their confidence with camping skills.

CONNECT

Build the Fire (or) SKILLS

To earn this award, girls will...

- Connect with their community to identify ways to get more people outdoors.
- Team up to encourage others to enjoy camping.
- Teach their new camp skills to others.

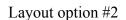
TAKE ACTION

Light the Way (or) OUTDOORS

To earn this award, girls will...

- Take action to bring their community and camping together.
- Reflect on, share, and celebrate the experiences and joys of camping.







The flame shown in the "Light the Way" award is actually the Brownie SPARK Award from the Carolina Peaks to Piedmont council. Another image would be used in its stead.

GSLE: THE 15 OUTCOMES



		At the Junior level	Fulfilled by this journey with activities and enhancements
DISCOVER	Girls develop a strong sense of self.		
	Girls develop positive values.		
	Girls gain practical life skills.		
CONNECT			
TAKE ACTION			