

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, 'GSOuddoors'

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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.

Layout option #1



Layout option #2



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			