

DIY Library Program

CAMPING IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME

Recommended for All Ages

History of Camping

Modern recreational camping was founded by Thomas Hiram Holding in the early 1900s. He had traveled in wagon trains across the prairie during his youth and this spurred his love for camping. In 1908 he wrote *The Camper's Handbook* which taught others about recreational camping. Since then, camping has grown, and organizations have been created to support campers and camping enthusiasts. Camping has also increased in popularity due to recreational vehicles (RVs) and organized campsite areas. The gear for camping has also improved over time. Tents now are lightweight and easier to set up while also offering better protection from rain than their predecessors. Portable stoves and lightweight cookware have also made camping more appealing and easier than before.¹

Questions for Discussion

- What materials would you need to go camping? Make a list of 10 things you would need in order to sleep comfortably in the great outdoors.
- What skills would you need to have in order to go camping? Make a list of 5 skills you would need when camping.

Activity: Camping at Home

If you can't get to a recreational camp site, you can still have a camping experience right in your own home or backyard. We are going to take you step-by-step through camping at home! If you need some additional inspiration, watch this YouTube video on *How to Camp at Home*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sORvPBnCJ70>.

Step 1 – Make a list of the items you will need to camp at home and gather your supplies.

Step 2 – Set up your shelter. If you own a tent and have room to set it up, great! If not, you can make a tent using spare blankets and sheets right on your living room floor.

¹ Petri, R. L., & Ryalls, A. (2013, December 1). Encyclopaedia Britannica. In Encyclopaedia Britannica. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/camping>



Step 3 – Prepare your sleeping space. Use a sleeping bag, pillows, and blankets to create a comfortable sleeping space inside your tent.

Step 4 – Gather around the fire. If you don't have a safe place to build a real fire, no worries! You can download and play campfire sounds for free from [Freegal Music](#) or play a campfire video from YouTube.

Step 5 – Make camping food for dinner. Use any of the library's outdoor cooking eBooks for inspiration. Tin foil dinners, baked potatoes, and smores? Yum!

Step 6 – Enjoy being with each other. Are you camping with your family? A roommate? Or virtually with friends who are camping in their own homes across town? Share stories and enjoy being together. After all, that's the best part of camping!

Things to Remember:

- Camping can take place indoors or outside. Either location can be a lot of fun!
- You can reach out to those you love who aren't nearby and include them in the fun via phone or video chat. Grandparents and older loved ones may have some great memories to share around your virtual campfire!
- Have fun!

Activity: Camp Out Tic-Tac-Toe

To help you on your camping adventure, play camping Tic-Tac-Toe (found below). Each board has suggested activities for you and your fellow campers. Get into teams and play Tic-Tac-Toe, but in this version, whenever you mark a square you should stop, do the activity listed in the square, then continue your game. Give the winner of Tic-Tac-Toe extra smores or the fluffiest pillow for sleeping. Let the camping begin!

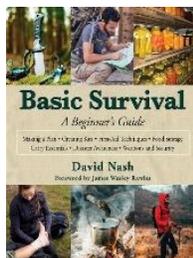
<p>Play a board game</p>	<p>Have a campfire dance party</p>	<p>Make s'mores</p>
<p>Reenact your favorite story or scene from book</p>	<p>Play I Spy or 20 Questions</p>	<p>Create shadow puppets on the ceiling or walls</p>
<p>Sing campfire songs</p>	<p>Play Human Sardines or Hide-and-Seek</p>	<p>Have a knot tying contest</p>

Have a scavenger hunt	Share a family memory	Play Flashlight Tag
Make up a story	Learn the 3 most common knots used while camping	Have a family mediation moment
Share a favorite scary story	Play cards	Roast marshmallows

DIGITAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE THROUGH LA COUNTY LIBRARY

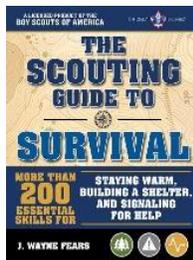
eBooks & Audiobooks

LA County Library offers numerous resources that can help you camp at home or prepare you for your next camping adventure. Here are just a few, all of which are available as eBooks on [OverDrive and Libby](#):



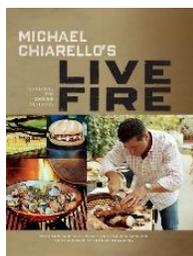
[Basic Survival: A Beginner's Guide](#) by David Nash

Is your staycation your first camp out experience? This guide offers insight to what is needed to make it through out in the wild. Basic Survival helps readers dig out from under the avalanche of preparedness information. It dispels myths, introduces concepts, and teaches the basics of survival and emergency preparedness.



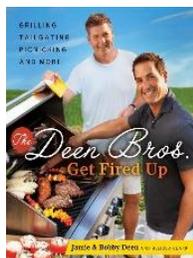
[The Scouting Guide to Survival](#) by The Boy Scouts of America

Maybe you have questions or are a little puzzled about survival. This guide offers suggestions and can give guidance on different skills that would be helpful in camping situations such as how to build a fire, purify water, build simple shelters, identify common edible plants, and learn some practical navigation skills.



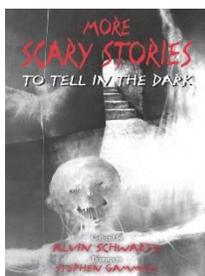
[Michael Chiarello's Live Fire: 125 Recipes for Cooking Outdoors](#) by Michael Chiarello and Claudia Sansone

Cooking outdoors can be challenging, but you don't have to be overwhelmed. Michael Chiarello has provided a cookbook to ease your staycation meal planning. Check it out and see what flavors you can add to your adventure.



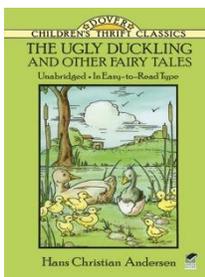
[The Deen Bros. Get Fired Up](#) by Jamie Deen and Bobby Deen

Hungry for the great outdoors? Need meal ideas for your staycation? See what the Deen boys are up to in this cookbook, featuring more than 125 mouthwatering recipes and entertaining ideas to make your outdoor dining a breeze. It has different meals that are bound to please a crowd.



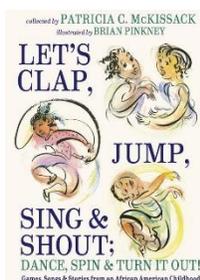
[More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark](#) by Alvin Schwartz

Scary stories and camping go together like peanut butter and jelly. This anthology of scary stories will give everyone in your adventurous crew the heebie-jeebies.



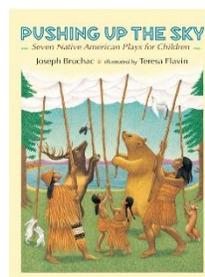
[The Ugly Duckling and Other Fairy Tales](#) by Hans Christian Andersen

For younger campers who may not want scary stories, check out this anthology of classic fairy tales. Laugh over “The Emperor’s New Clothes” and cheer for “The Princess and the Pea.”



[Let's Clap, Jump, Sing & Shout; Dance, Spin & Turn It Out!: Games Songs and Stories from an African American Childhood](#) by Patricia C. McKissack

This book is a songbook, storybook, poetry collection, and much more all rolled into one. Learn handclaps and games then snuggle together to read classic fables featuring characters such as Anansi the Spider and Br'er Rabbit.



[Pushing Up the Sky: Seven Native American Plays for Children](#) by Joseph Bruchac

Take your at-home camping to the next level by putting on a play with your children. Each play is adapted from a different Native American tale giving young readers, and actors, an opportunity to learn about the seven Native nations that inspired this book.

Additional Resources

[Freegal Music](#). Enjoy ad-free, unlimited streaming of over 11 million of songs in addition to 5 free downloads to your device each week. Add some ambience to your camping experience with music selections such as [Nature Sounds: Relaxing by the Fire](#) and [Woodland Nature Sounds](#), among others.



[Virtual Reference Library](#). Search for “camping” and you can choose several eBook titles about camping, the great outdoors, and other recreational activities.

[Hoopla](#). Check out free films and tv shows on Hoopla Digital. They also offer eBooks, audiobooks, and music. Search for “camping” and you can choose from a variety of electronic resources including many eBook titles.