



What to expect:

This unit will guide you through an at-home camping adventure. It is a great way to practice for camping in Florida State Parks or to have the fun of camping when you cannot make it to a park. Activities include setting-up a tent, enjoying s'mores and telling stories. You can have a camping adventure whether you are indoors or in your yard!



What You'll Need

- [Adobe Reader](#)
- Tent or large sheet
- Pillows, blankets and chairs
- Craft supplies
- Your favorite snacks

Each activity will provide a more specific materials list!

What to do:

1. Work through the **CAMP IN** activities.
2. Answer a few questions at the end to tell us what you liked.
3. Tell others about your experience.

To become an official Virtual Junior Ranger and start earning digital prizes, all you have to do is take the [pledge](#) and complete the [Registration](#).



Get Digital Prizes:

After you register, you'll receive your Virtual Member Number. Complete the survey at the end of this unit to get your exclusive Virtual Junior Ranger digital content.



AT THE CAMPSITE

Name _____ Date _____

Where are you doing this activity? _____

The first step is to set up camp!

Most people think they have to be in the great outdoors to camp. For this Camp In, you can switch things up by setting up in your backyard, on your outdoor patio, or even indoors! Follow the steps below to get started.

1. Pick a Campsite: Where is your campsite?

Backyard/patio OR Living room OR Other:

2. Gather Materials: What tent supplies do you have available?

- Large sheet or tablecloth
- 4 chairs OR Camping tent
- Stacks of books

3. Pitch Your Tent: Start by measuring the area you plan to set up. Make sure you have enough room, then clear the space where your tent will go.

Build an Indoor Tent

Don't have a camping tent? No problem. Follow these easy steps. To see things step-by-step, **click or tap the image** to the right.

- Position chairs in a square with the backs facing inward.
- Drape the large sheet over the chairs.
- Anchor the sheet to the chairs by placing stacks of books on the edges of the cloth or on the seat of each chair.



Remember, whether inside or out, you can personalize your tent! You can make the site your own with comfy pillows and blankets, lights and festive decorations, snacks and stuffed friends.

What's at Your Campsite?

Below are examples of traditional camping equipment and their uses.

The great part of a **CAMP IN** is that you can use whatever you have on hand! If you don't have camping gear, come up with ideas to use as an alternative.



Purpose: Light source during the night

Equipment: Lantern

My alternative:



Purpose: Store and preserve food, keep it cold

Equipment: Cooler

My alternative:



Purpose: Cook food

Equipment: Fire pit grill

My alternative:



Purpose: Warm and comfy place to sleep

Equipment: Sleeping bag

My alternative:

WHAT'S NEXT

Take your **CAMP IN** to the next level!

Now that you have set up camp, explore these Florida State Park over night nature sights and sounds to create the real camping feel at home.



Sounds

[Barred Owl Call](#)

[Florida Frog Chorus](#)

[Ocean Waves](#)

Videos

[Bats at Twilight](#)

[Sunrise at the Prairie](#)

[Evening Beach](#)



AROUND THE FIRE

Name _____ Date _____

Where are you doing this activity? _____

Campfires are an important part of any camping experience.

A fire can be a place to cook your food, but it's also much more. Campfires provide warmth and light to make your camp site feel homey, and they are the perfect backdrop to share stories and songs with your friends or family.

Building a fire is a useful skill to learn. Remember these important safety tips!



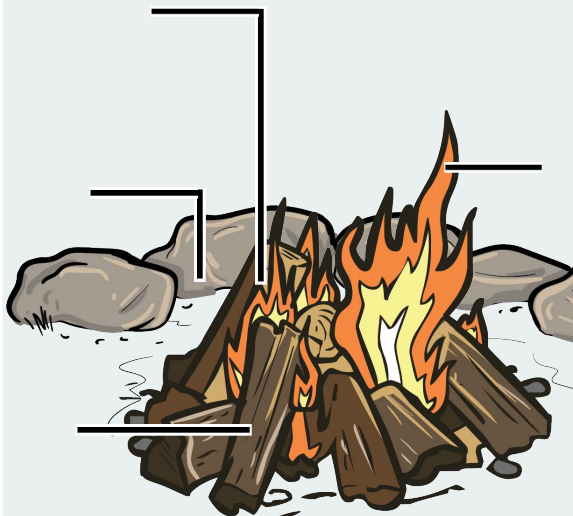
Campfire Safety

- **NEVER** play with or around fire without adult supervision.
- Check local conditions to see if it is safe to light a fire in your area.



Anatomy of a Fire

One of the most popular ways to build a campfire is to stack wood in a cone shape, called a teepee. Label the fire diagram below with the matching letters.



A) Fire ring. Circle of stone or metal to keep the fire from spreading.

B) Tinder and Kindling. Very light, dry pieces of wood at the base of the fire that burn the easiest.

C) Fuel. Larger logs that keep the fire burning all night.

D) Flames. For bright, hot flames, make your teepee as wide as it is tall.

Backyard bonfires and fire pits can be a great way to bring camping home. If you don't have a fire pit, check out the next page for indoor ideas.

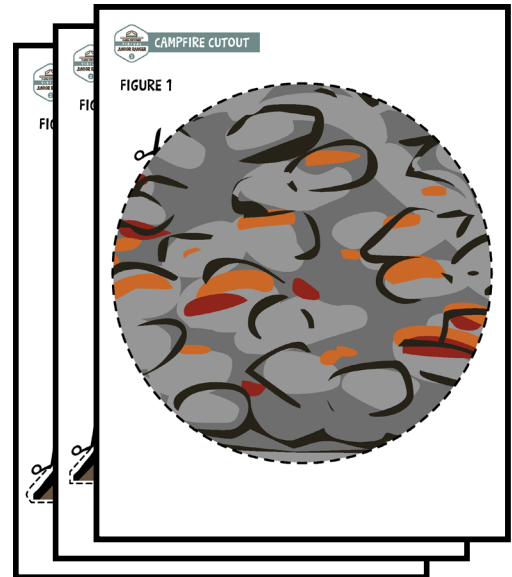
Build a Campfire Cutout!

What You'll Need:

- Printer
- Scissors
- School Glue
- Cardboard, 8.5" x 11" (5)

Directions:

1. Click the image to the right.
2. Print out the activity on computer paper.
3. Glue each figure to a piece of cardboard.
4. Have an adult to help you cut each figure out along the dotted line.
5. Remember to keep track of each figure. Cut out FIGURE 1 and set aside.
6. Glue the cardboard side of FIGURE 2 and the cardboard side of FIGURE 3 together.
7. Glue the cardboard side of FIGURE 4 and the cardboard side of FIGURE 5 together.
8. Slide the figures together and glue on top of FIGURE 1 so it looks like the drawing.



Don't have a printer? You can draw and color your own! Or, try building a campfire out of household materials.

- Balled-up socks make great stones for your fire ring.
- Rolled-up towels and blankets are convincing fuel logs.
- Red tissue paper will bring the flames to life!



WHAT'S NEXT

However you enjoy your campfire, spend time with your friends and family.

Click or tap the images for additional campfire inspiration. You can play the animation or listen to the crackling sounds to set the tone for your camp.



*Always remember to ask an adult before accessing the internet and using social media.



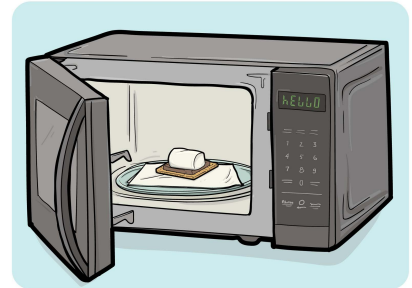
CAMPING CUISINE

Name _____ Date _____

Where are you doing this activity? _____

Did you know that you can enjoy campfire cuisine without leaving your backyard?

The perfect camping food can be made at home with a backyard grill, indoor oven or even a microwave!



Camping Cooking Tips

- Ask a parent or guardian to help you before you use a grill, stove, microwave or build a campfire.
- Use oven mitts to protect your hands from hot plates and pans.
- Have plenty of napkins on hand - these campfire treats can be messy!

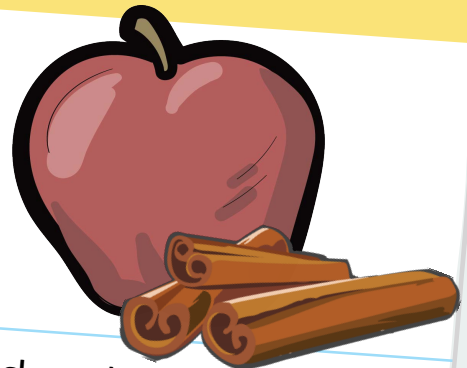
FIRE-ROASTED APPLES

Materials

Knife
Aluminum foil
Charcoal or gas grill
Tongs

Ingredients

Apples
Butter
Cinnamon
Sugar



Preparation

1. Have an adult cut out the core of the apples. Place each apple on a sheet of foil.
2. Fill the core with a tab of butter, and cinnamon and sugar to taste.
3. Wrap each apple completely with foil, gathering at the top to make a handle.
4. Cook on medium-heat grill for 20-25 minutes, using tongs to turn occasionally.
5. Take off heat. Let cool slightly. Open the foil and eat with a spoon!

No grill? Complete steps 1-2. Then bake at 350° for 15-20 minutes.

Make it your own!

- Add nuts, dried fruits, or other spices to Step 2.
- Try topping the finished apples with ice cream.

*Always remember to ask an adult before accessing the internet and using social media.

INDOOR S'MORES

Materials

Baking sheet
Oven
Oven mitts

Ingredients

Graham crackers
Milk chocolate bars
Marshmallows



Preparation

1. Place graham cracker squares on a baking sheet.
2. Top the graham crackers with chocolate and marshmallows to create stacks.
3. Bake at 400° for 3-5 minutes or until the marshmallows start to puff.
4. Remove the sheet from the oven.
5. Top each stack with another graham cracker square and gently smash together.
6. Let cool slightly and enjoy!

You can microwave s'mores too! Using a microwave-safe plate, microwave the stacks on HIGH 15 to 20 seconds before topping them off with graham crackers.

Make it your own!

There's no wrong way to eat a s'more. Enjoy them traditionally or try using different types of chocolate or candy bars. Go all out by decorating with caramel sauce or sprinkles.



WHAT'S NEXT

You're all ready to settle into camp with your fire and your food!

Click or tap here to check out some [healthy campfire recipes!](#)

What snacks are you bringing to the **CAMP IN?**

Take a picture of your Camp In Cuisine, and share it with us on social media using #FLStateParksJrRanger



*Always remember to ask an adult before accessing the internet and using social media.



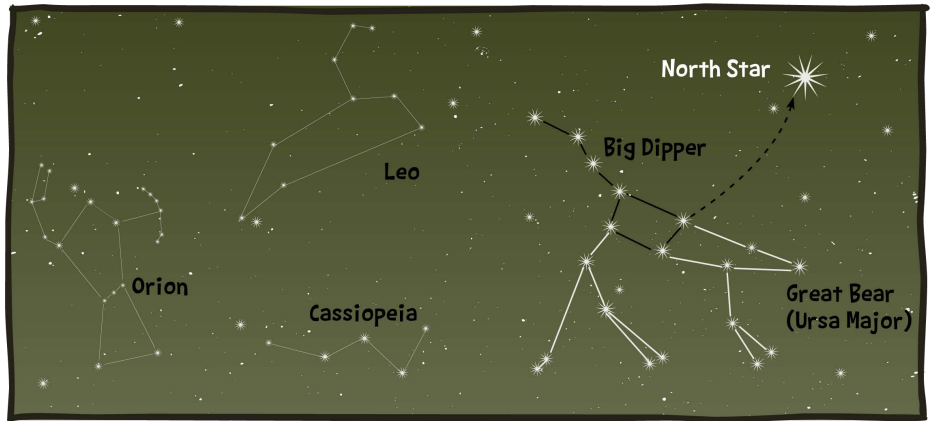
SUNDOWN STORIES

Name _____ Date _____

Where are you doing this activity? _____

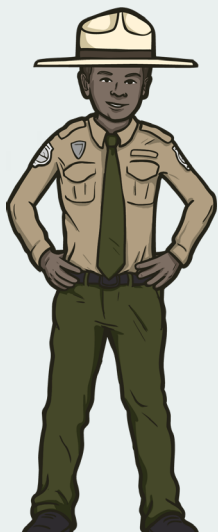
Studying the Stars

From the beginning of time, people have looked up at the night sky in wonder. Constellations, or patterns of stars, were some of the earliest inspirations for stories and legends, like the one below.



Take a look at the night sky with your family. Watch from your yard or **click on the picture** to watch the view from Dr. Julian G Bruce St. George Island State Park.

On a clear night, you can look up and see the Milky Way galaxy streak across the sky. Seminole legend says the Milky Way is a path that leads west to the City in the Sky where our ancestors live. The Big Dipper is a boat that eases the journey across the night sky. When we sleep, our souls are tempted to go play along the path but they always return to our bodies by morning. If you live a good life filled with kindness and honesty, one day you too will get to sail among the stars.



Star stories are usually legends. Legends are stories that are passed down through generations. They often teach a lesson or help explain the world.

Other campfire stories are entertaining. They might be funny or spooky, based on real life events or completely made up!

What are your favorite types of stories? _____

What can a storyteller do to make the story more interesting?

*Always remember to ask an adult before accessing the internet and using social media.



Write Your Own Campfire Tale!

Fill in the blanks to get started telling your very own story.

On a warm summer night in _____, three friends were sitting around a campfire at _____. They had just finished eating _____ for dinner and were listening to the cicadas chirping when all of a sudden they heard a loud _____. The friends decided to go investigate, so they all gathered their _____ and headed off into the _____ to see what the sound was.

Next, _____

 _____.



Enjoy Virtual Storytime!

You can listen to campfire stories told by Florida State Park Rangers. **Click or tap the picture below** and look through our campfire playlist for the perfect story to enjoy with your family.

Which story did you listen to? _____

You can share the video link with others. Be sure to tell them all about your **CAMP IN** experience.

Get your digital prizes by completing the [CAMP IN Survey!](#)



*Always remember to ask an adult before accessing the internet and using social media.