

Topic: It's Camping Season!

What is a Short and Snappy?

- A short interactive group discussion provided at a Service Unit meeting for volunteers to share at the troop level.
- Any Service Unit team member, volunteer, or learning facilitator may guide a Short and Snappy.
- Ideas for presentation: One person can facilitate to a group, or small groups can present an assigned section to the room.

Objectives:

The objective of "It's Camping Season!" is to highlight the benefits of the outdoor experience that camping provides and gearing the troop up with excitement!

Why Camp?

1. **Making Memories** – These memories are made through meaningful camp experiences, such as campfire stories, Scouts' Own Ceremonies, active programming, cooking, and reflection activities.
2. **Learning New Skills** – Camping provides the opportunity for skill building in multiple areas including building fires, cooking, and many others.
3. **De-Stress and Reconnect** – Getting outside and camping help both the girls and the adults destress, relax, and reconnect.
4. **Empower Girls** – Girls are given the opportunity to show off new skills and feel self-sufficient through setting up camp, cooking, and carrying out challenging activities.
5. **Attention Restoration** – Time outside improves concentration and creative reasoning!
6. **Promotes Leadership** - Time in nature gets girls out of their comfort zones, experiencing new physical, social, and psychological situations that require girls to become more self-aware, cooperative, problem-solving, and communication oriented.
7. **Overcome Fears** – Outdoor experiences offer challenges that help girls take risks and overcome fears – such as fear of water, heights, or wildlife.
8. **Involving Everyone** – Girls are equally involved in the planning and facilitation of camping.
9. **Developing a Sense of Environmental Stewardship** – Leave No Trace!
10. **Encouraging Physical Play** – Through camping, girls are taught to value their environment.

Activity:

1. Have everyone write down five things to try on your next Girl Scout camping trip on a quarter sheet of paper, fold it up, and put it in a hat/jar.
2. Shake it up, and have everyone draw out a paper.
3. Go around the room sharing the ideas by reading the paper drawn. Discuss as many ideas as you can in your allotted time. As the facilitator, make sure to point out any safety policies as precautions related to the ideas brought up in the discussion.
4. When finished, ask participants to share their most memorable outdoor experiences with the girls.

Before You Go:

- Make sure you have taken the Camping In/Camping out required training before you take your girls camping, as well as having a First-Aider for the troop at the campout. Check out the [Outdoor Training and CPR Training](#) information on our website.
- Follow the policies found in the [Volunteer Essentials](#) before planning your camping trip, including what the required volunteer to [girl ratios](#) are for your size and age group.
- Visit the [Safety Activity Checkpoints \(SAC's\)](#) on our website for any activity planned for the campout.
- Take a peek at last year's [Camping Short and Snappy](#) for more great resources!