

How to Go Camping with Your Trailblazers Club

Once you have grown your club and members have shown an interest in camping, follow these five steps to get started!

1. Find a campsite
2. Reserve a campsite
3. Gear up
4. Practice
5. Go camping!

Find a Campsite

If you and your students are new to camping, we encourage you to reserve a local campsite at a nearby state park or recreation area before traveling too far. You can check out the North Carolina State Parks website to see what campsites are available near you. On the website you will be able to click on a park to see what camping amenities are available along with pictures of the site.

North Carolina State Parks Website [Find a State Park](#)

Reserve your Campsite

Once you have found a campsite, you can reserve it online or contact the park office. Before you reserve the site, be sure to review all details, instructions for checking in/out, and any important notes prior to your arrival.



Meeting Idea: Request that club members complete research on the campsite to prepare for the trip. The club could divide into small groups/pairs to learn more about the activities available at the park/recreation area, find campfire meal recipes, or assist with making an itinerary.

Gear Up

Once you have a complete roster of how many students and chaperones will be going on the trip, you can begin purchasing your club gear. You can purchase camping gear at a variety of stores, including Walmart, Amazon, and REI. Used gear can be found at REI and local gear shares as well for discounted prices. Below is a list of items to consider purchasing/borrowing for a successful trip.

Equipment & Supplies

- Tents
- Sleeping pads
- Sleeping bags
- Flashlights/lanterns
- Tarps
- Camping chairs
- First Aid Kit
- Insect Repellant
- Sunscreen
- Trash Bags
- Toiletries
- Lighter/matches
- Firewood (sometimes available for purchase at park)

Meals

- Easy meals for grill or fire
- On the go snacks
- Plenty of water
- Coolers & ice
- Cooking utensils for grill/over the fire (skewers, tongs, spatulas etc.)
- Plates, bowls & cutlery
- Can opener
- Paper towels
- Camp stove/griddle

Practice Setting Up

After you have gathered all the necessary equipment, have a club meeting where your club members learn how to setup their tents at school in an open grassy area. Your club can even turn this activity into an overnight where your club goes camping at school! This is a great time to do some team bonding games, practice astronomy, and gain confidence before the trip takes place.



Meeting idea: Once students have learned the steps to setup their tent, challenge the club members by dividing them into groups for a race to see who can put their tent up the fastest!

Go Camping!

Campsite reserved? Gear collected? Students can setup tents in record time? You are ready to go on your camping trip! Friendly reminder to check the weather forecast, have a reliable map on hand, and the correct clothing for the site's conditions.