

Camping Themed Programming

Pitch a tent in imagination and head for the great outdoors! This camping themed programme is filled with trail games, campfire crafts and s'mores worthy treats to keep your holiday programme feeling like one big adventure.

OSCN
Out of School Care Network

INTRO



Grab your backpack and lace up your boots, the camp is calling! This theme brings the fun of the great outdoors to life, with trail games, campfire crafts and camp food the whole crew will love.

HOW TO GET STARTED

Inside you'll find crafts, games and activities to help bring your camping theme to life. Adapt them to suit your group and enjoy the adventure!

SCHEDULE

The schedule is a vital part of any programme. Use the link to the right to open a Google Sheet with a five-day schedule that can be edited/adjusted to suit your needs.

We encourage you to use ‘flexi-cruise’ mode: if the children are enjoying an activity then let it run longer!

Schedule link here



Day 1			
Time	Activity	Notes	Link
8:30 - 9:00am	Free time activities	Free time activities can including colouring pages, wordfinds, small games etc. Link for printables	Link Here
9:00 - 9:30am	Roll call / Freetime Activities		
9:30 - 10:00am	Campfire Countdown	(21) Stand in a circle as if you're gathered around a campfire, players show one to five fingers as the leader counts up to twenty-one, whoever's fingers make the total becomes the next fire-keeper.	Link Here
10:00 - 10:30am	Morning Tea		
10:30 - 11:00am	Free time activities (while setting up for craft)	Free time activities can including colouring pages, wordfinds, small games etc. Link for printables	Link Here
11:00 - 11:30am	Exploring Journal	Fold and staple your own ten-page journal for sketches, leaf rubbings and trail notes. Link for instructions	Link Here
11:30am - Noon			
Noon - 12:30pm			
12:30 - 1:00pm	Lunch		
1:00 - 1:30pm	Free time activities / playground time	Free time activities can including colouring pages, wordfinds, small games etc. Link for printables	Link Here
1:30 - 2:00pm	Marshmallow Spoon Race	(Egg and Spoon Race) Balance a marshmallow on a spoon and race to the finish line, if it drops, stop, scoop it up and carry on, then pass the spoon to your teammate.	Link Here
2:00 - 2:30pm	Blindfold Campsite Sketch	(Blind Drawing Challenge) Balance a paper plate on your head and sketch camping items like tents and marshmallows without peeking.	Link Here
2:30 - 3:00pm	Roll-a-Critter	(Build a Character) Roll a dice to draw the parts of your own camp critter piece by piece, first to complete their creature wins.	Link Here
3:00 - 3:30pm	Afternoon tea		
3:30 - 4:00pm	Trail Leader's Orders	(Captains Coming) The trail leader calls out orders for the crew to obey, miss one and you're out, last hiker standing wins.	Link Here
4:00 - 4:30pm	Cross the Creek	(Cross the River) Use a limited number of stepping stones to get your whole team across the 'creek' without touching the ground.	Link Here
4:30 - 5:00pm	Free time activities	Free time activities can including colouring pages, wordfinds, small games etc. Link for printables	Link Here
5:00 - 5:30pm			
5:30 - 6:00pm			
Notes			

CUSTOMISABLE PLANNER

Spread the word around the campfire! The planner provides a format to advertise your programme

Often programmes have their own templates, or you can use this link to an editable Google Slides planner. We have set up a whole fortnight of camping adventures. If you prefer just a themed day, then pitch a camp day and mix it up how you like.

Planner link here



CRAFTS



EXPLORING JOURNAL

Fold and staple your own ten-page journal for sketches, leaf rubbings and trail notes.

Instructions found here



PAINTED ROCKS

Paint and seal rocks to mark the trail, hide around the site or swap with a friend.

Instructions found here



ICE BLOCK STICK CATAPULT

Build a stick catapult and launch pom pom 'marshmallows' across the room.

Instructions found here



FAUX BINOCULARS

Make cardboard tube binoculars with a string strap for spotting wildlife.

Instructions found here



GLOWING LANTERN

Cut out a card lantern lined with tinfoil and thread in a glow stick to light it up.

Instructions found here



BUG HOTEL

Pack an empty tin with sticks, bamboo and leaves to build a cosy home for garden bugs.

Instructions found here

Download all instructions here

GAMES

INTO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

It only takes a little imagination to give a game a camping twist.

Balls or beanbags can become marshmallows or pinecones.

Players can act as rangers, campers or woodland critters.

In the same way, you can link classic games into any theme. Follow the clickable links for game instructions.

- Campfire Countdown (21)
- Firewood Raid (Rob the Nest)
- Pebble Marbles (Marbles)
- Campsite Duel (Wizards Duel)
- Hot Marshmallow (Hot Potato)
- Campsite Catch (Numbers Ball)
- Camp Leader Says (Simon Says)
- Four Campsites (Four Corners)
- Musical Logs (Musical Chairs)
- Sleeping Bag Race (Sack Race)
- Squeeze in the Tent (Sardines)
- Bucket Brigade (Pass the Water)
- Pass the Giggle (Pass the Smile)
- Sleepy Campers (Sleeping Lions)
- Duck Duck Bear (Duck Duck Goose)

See schedule for more games here



AFTERNOON TEA FRIENDLY



TRAIL MIX

Mix cheerios, pretzels, popcorn and mini marshmallows, coated in white chocolate. Recipe here.



BANANA LOGS

Banana pieces dipped in chocolate and rolled in crushed pretzel, stacked like campfire logs.

BAKING DAYS



SIMPLE S'MORES

Oven baked chocolate digestive and marshmallow stacks, gooey campfire s'mores. Recipe here.

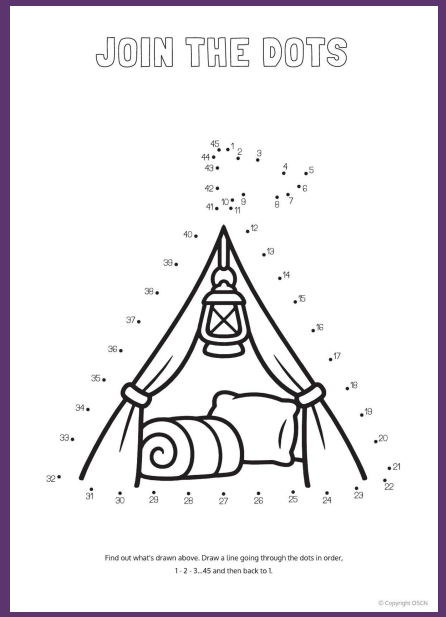


CAMPFIRE CUPCAKES

Chocolate cupcakes with orange and yellow flame icing and pretzel stick logs.

Printable activities are handy time fillers that can also link to a theme. There are many online resources but here are some to get you started. Clickable links below

Join the dots



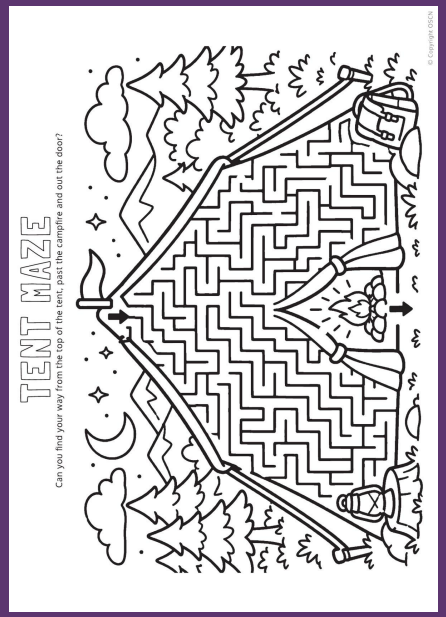
Wordfind



Colouring in



Mazes



PRINTABLES

A BIT EXTRA

TRIP IDEAS



Head to a local reserve or park for a real nature hike, spot birds and bugs along the way. Another option is a trip to the lake or beach for a big camp day out.

STAFF INPUT



Encourage staff to dress as campers or rangers, think plaid shirts, bandanas and sun hats.

Staff could also help run a 'camp store' for the printables, or lead a sing-along by the pretend campfire.

ADDED EXTRAS



Campsite Decorations

Decorate the space with fairy lights strung like a night sky, bunting made from bandana fabric and a pretend campfire built from cardboard logs and orange tissue paper.