



## TENT CAMPING

Before completing this charm, participants should have completed the Wild Wonders Patch and Leave No Trace, First-Aid, and Fire charms. If you plan on using knives for cooking, participants grades 4 and up should complete the Knives and Outdoor Cooking charm as well. Knots, Lashing and Navigation is recommended prior to this charm if you plan on doing these activities.

Supervising adults must have TCC1 and TCC2 Training Certification prior to the earning of this charm, to make sure safety guidelines and skills. Visit [girlscoutsaz.org/tcc](http://girlscoutsaz.org/tcc) for adult training online certifications.

This program is self-guided. There will be opportunities for supplemental virtual events (and future in-person events) that will guide you in the completion of your charm.

Camping can be a great way to bond with your fellow Girl Scout sisters and family. Planning and executing a successful camping trip can be very rewarding. Whether you are an experienced camper or a new one, remember to have fun and enjoy nature.

You and your troop or family are a team, work together and enjoy the camping experience! If this is your first time camping, review all the skills from each level. The more you know before you go, the safer you will be.

Decide if you will be camping where there are established bathrooms (indoor or composting toilets) and/or with running or potable water available. If you will be dry camping, campers will need to bring all their water and use latrines or cat-holed for going to the bathroom.

**NOTE:** It is encouraged for troops and families to start off tent camping in more established camping locations and conditions and progress towards camping in more primitive locations and conditions.

- » Planning Your Troop's First Campout – [youtube.com/watch?v=TflACec-S6M](https://youtube.com/watch?v=TflACec-S6M)
- » How to Set Up a Tent, by Girl Scout Troop 341 – [youtube.com/watch?v=Eg7hmlce8r8](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Eg7hmlce8r8)

### DAISY (GRADES K-1)

- » Discover what things are needed to go camping. What do you think the five most important things are?
- » Discuss with your troop or family what is important to take on a weekend camping trip. Make a list of items that you will need. How will you be sure everything gets to your campsite? Find out why camp Kaper charts are important and create one for your group.
- » Practice putting up a tent in your backyard with your family or troop before the trip.
- » Pack a bag as if you were going camping. What are some things you can do to be sure you remember everything you need?
- » Have a backyard campout. With your family, a friend or your troop mates, set up your tent and sleep outside for the night.
- » Review and practice proper personal hygiene and sanitation.
- » Go camping!



## BROWNIE (GRADES 2-3)

- » Plan your camping trip. Make your packing list, organize a Kaper chart, and be sure everyone knows their role.
- » Practice putting up your tent. Before you take your tent to the great outdoors, be sure that you know how to put it up. This will help make your actual camping trip less stressful. It is also important to practice taking down your tent and fitting it back into its bag.
- » Check the weather forecast. If this is your first time camping, you may want to choose a time of year when nice weather is likely. But be prepared for cool evenings and mornings.
- » Review and practice proper personal hygiene and sanitation.
- » Go camping! Set up your tents, then have fun. Getting the work out of the way first can be a relief. After, you can make a snack, go on a walk or play a game.

## JUNIOR (GRADES 4-5)

- » Learn the parts of a tent.
- » Practice putting up your tent. Before you take your tent to the great outdoors, be sure that you know how to put it up. This will help make your actual camping trip less stressful. It is also important to practice breaking down your tent and fitting it back into its bag.
- » Plan your camping trip. Where will you go? Make your packing list and Kaper chart and be sure everyone knows their role.
- » Check the weather. Prepare for the possibility of rain, cool nights, and foggy mornings.
- » Review and practice proper personal hygiene and sanitation; make sure girls and adults know how to dig latrines/cat-holes and know when, where, and how to use them. Make sure to bring feminine hygiene on trips even if it's not time for a girl or adult's cycle. Outdoors can affect when a female menstruates.
  - *NOTE: Parents and leaders may need to review appropriate feminine hygiene in the outdoors with girls as young as 4th grade.*
- » Decide how you will organize meals. Now is a good time to practice your outdoor cooking skills. Are you using a Dutch oven, cooking on the grill, or using a camping stove? Be sure you practice before your camp and take any fuel needed for your stove.

## CADETTE (GRADES 6-8)

**ADULTS:** at this age, girls should be doing most of the prep work and camping work themselves. You are there to maintain safety.

- » Learn the parts of a tent.
- » Practice putting up your tent. Before you take your tent to the great outdoors, be sure that you know how to put it up. This will help make your actual camping trip less stressful. It is also important to practice breaking down your tent and fitting it back into its bag.
- » Plan your trip. Decide where to go. Do you need fire permits? Being able to have a campfire or not will be a factor in food preparation.
- » Decide on meals and how you will cook beforehand. Assign jobs to each person. Remember, you are a team, work together.
- » Prepare for weather. Find out if evening weather will be cool or if mornings will be foggy.
- » Review and practice proper personal hygiene and sanitation; make sure girls and adults know how to dig latrines/cat-holes and know when, where, and how to use them. Make sure to bring feminine hygiene on trips even if it's not time for a girl or adult's cycle. Outdoors can affect when a female menstruates.
- » Be sure that each person can properly demonstrate the skills needed for camping:
  - Fire building
  - Knife use and safety
  - Outdoor cooking
  - First aid
  - What to do if lost
  - Proper hygiene and sanitation, including feminine hygiene in the outdoors
- » Go camping!

**SENIORS AND AMBASSADORS (GRADES 9-12 + ADULTS)**

- » Learn and/or review the parts of a tent.
- » Plan your trip.
  - Decide on meals, are you cooking on fire, or bringing a gas stove?, who does what job, prepare for weather.
  - Challenge yourselves by going on a longer trip than you have before, or try out primitive camping.
- » Practice putting up your tent. Before you take your tent to the great outdoors, be sure that you know how to put it up. This will help make your actual camping trip less stressful. It is also important to practice taking down your tent and fitting it back into its bag.
- » Review and practice proper personal hygiene and sanitation; make sure girls and adults know how to dig latrines/cat-holes and know when, where, and how to use them. Make sure to bring feminine hygiene on trips even if it's not time for a girl or adult's cycle. Outdoors can affect when a person menstruates.
- » Be sure your outdoor skills are up to par. Prior to your trip, review the camping skills needed for a successful outing:
  - Fire building
  - Knife use and safety
  - Outdoor cooking
  - First Aid
  - Compass/Orienteering (if you plan on hiking while on your trip)
  - What to do if lost
  - Knots and lashing
  - Proper hygiene and sanitation, including feminine hygiene in the outdoors
- » Go camping! Your camping trip can be the culmination of all your outdoor skills. It's a great time to bond with your sister Girl Scouts and family, to prove to yourself that you really have learned all you can, and most of all have fun and enjoy nature!

**RESOURCES**

The following resources will help in the completion of this charm. There are many more resources online.

- » Review Girl Scout Guidelines for Group Camping – [girlscoutsaz.org/content/dam/girlscoutsaz/documents/volunteer-resources/safety-activity-checkpoints-2020.pdf#page46](https://www.girlscoutsaz.org/content/dam/girlscoutsaz/documents/volunteer-resources/safety-activity-checkpoints-2020.pdf#page46)
- » Parts of a Tent – [coolofthewild.com/parts-of-a-tent/](http://coolofthewild.com/parts-of-a-tent/)
- » Camping for Beginners – [rei.com/learn/expert-advice/camping-for-beginners.html](http://rei.com/learn/expert-advice/camping-for-beginners.html)
- » Know Where to Camp – [reserveamerica.com/](http://reserveamerica.com/)
- » Trip Savy Resources – [tripsavvy.com/camping-4138704](http://tripsavvy.com/camping-4138704)

**Seniors, Ambassadors (GRADES 9-12 + ADULTS)**

- » Recommend watching “Which Backpacking Shelter is the BEST” – [youtube.com/watch?v=4P5yypHZ-5A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4P5yypHZ-5A)

**BADGE CONNECTIONS**

By participating and completing this Charms program, you are also on your way to earning Girl Scout badges. Purchase specific badge requirement packets at [girlscoutshop.com/ARIZONA-CACTUS-PINE-COUNCIL](http://girlscoutshop.com/ARIZONA-CACTUS-PINE-COUNCIL).

- » Daisy = Buddy Camper
- » Brownie = Cabin Camper
- » Juniors = Eco Camper
- » Cadettes = Primitive Camper
- » Seniors = Adventure Camper
- » Ambassadors = Survival Camper
- » Adult trainings available TCC 1 and TCC2

**RECOMMENDED NEXT CHARMS:**

- Navigation
- Backpacking
- Lashing
- Outdoor Cooking
- Knives