

What to Expect From Your First Campout

Have you ever been camping before? Is this your first time? Here is what to expect from Cub Scout Camping.

First of all, your son will have the time of his life. How many times in your life, can you get away from the TV and Video Games, and just spend time with your son? Your son will learn new skills, he will be able to do things that other kids are not able to do, and he will make new friends. Camping really brings your family together. In fact, it brings the entire Pack together. A parent can expect to meet other parents and bond with them. You really get to know someone after you have camped with them. The entire Pack will do activities during the day, and you will meet new friends. The Pack also, sleeps together at one campsite, so you will not be on your own.

When we camp, we are out in the woods. Your cell phone may not work. Even if the phone does work, you may not have electricity to charge the phone if it dies. If you are addicted to your phone, you may be out of luck.

Typically we camp in locations that have plumbing and showers. We will have toilets and you will be able to take a shower everyday if you like. We do not rough it, but we do camp in primitive campsites. What that means is that we are in the middle of nowhere. You and your kids will get dirty. After all you are sleeping outside and are in the elements. If you are squeamish about dirt and grime, perhaps camping is not for you.

You will see wildlife. I have seen everything from raccoons to deer and a bear. We are visiting their environment, and we must respect them. Another thing about wildlife, they are attracted to smells. They are attracted to food, toothpaste, deodorant -- anything that has a smell they are attracted to. You do not want to have any of this stuff in your tent with you, or you will have a visitor during the night. You want to keep food out of your tent, and in an air tight container.

You will walk a lot. Be prepared to walk at least two miles during your camping trip. You should wear comfortable shoes and thick socks. The whole point to walking a lot, is to tire out the kids. On Friday night, when you arrive to set up camp, the kids are so excited to be there. They run around, and play and do not want to go to sleep. On Saturday Night, after walking a lot, and doing the camp activities, the kids actually ask you if they can go to bed.

You will see your son do things that you never thought he could do. You will see him help you pitch a tent. You will see him help cook food at the campsite. You will see him shoot BB Guns and Archery. You will see him learn new Scout Skills. In short, by the end of the trip you will be proud of your son.

Once you go camping for the first time, you will do it again. Not only will your son have fun, you will have fun. You will meet new people, and you will make some friends. There is plenty for an adult to do at camp, and rest assured, you will be back.

With the Pack, there are many opportunities to go camping. Part of a good Cub Scout Program is a good Outdoor Program. Boys join Scouts to go camping. If you are just coming to the meetings and not coming to the campouts, then you are missing a big part of the Cub Scout Program. It is a statistic that Scouts that go camping stick with Scouting. If you have never been camping before, it is okay. Plenty of parents will help you set up a tent. Plenty of parents will help you with anything you need.

I had never been camping until my son joined Cub Scouts. I remember him begging my wife and I to go camping. My wife and I are not really outdoors people, but we gave in and went with him. We had the time of our lives. We enjoyed it so much, that we began to camp without the Pack. My wife has turned into a true outdoors person and wants to go backpacking and other things.

Like I said, go camping once and you will be hooked. You will initially go camping because your son wants to. At some point, the experience will become personal for you. You will begin to get selfish about your camping experience. You will enjoy the adult bonding. You will enjoy all the friends that you have made in the Pack. You will enjoy catching up with your friends.