



Here are 10 reasons why you should go camping!

When the weather is inviting, the smell of campfires and pine trees allure many people into the woods and mountains for camping trips. At the start of summer, when the days are getting longer, or perhaps in the fall when the nights are chilly and the leaves are beginning to turn, are ideal times to take to the woods.

Sometimes there's nothing better than sitting around a fire and roasting marshmallows with your best friends or your family. If you still need more convincing, here are 10 reasons you should consider packing up the sleeping bags and heading into the wilderness – or a local campground.

1. You get (much) closer to nature

While camping, you may find yourself in a national or provincial park, wilderness lands or national forest lands. Campgrounds in these areas are about as close as you can get to some of the most beautiful places on earth.

Camping can be just a stone's throw from blue waters, beautiful rivers, tall mountains, or other peaceful views and tranquil sounds of nature.

2. You can get far away from technology

Most campgrounds don't have Wi-Fi or even a cell signal, so you and your children can leave the tech at home and get up close and personal with wildflowers, bugs, swimming holes and the Milky Way. Some privately-owned campgrounds do have Wi-Fi if you need to keep in touch or pull up maps to plan the next leg of your journey.

3. You realize how little you can live with

My husband and I have traveled around the world, but one of our best trips ever was a two-week trip out-of-state. We were able to fit everything we needed into the trunk of a car and realized we could be happy with very little – including plans. You can go big and camp in a 45-foot fifth wheel, or you can keep it simple with a two-person tent.

4. Food tastes much better in the outdoors

Ribs, hamburgers, corn on the cob, Jiffy Pop and roasted marshmallows – typical camping food is some of the best-tasting food and it tastes even better in the fresh air. Cooking over an open flame or over a grill gives burgers an intense flavor and makes s'mores a delectable campfire treat.

5. Camping is affordable

When strapped for cash for a vacation, many families can still enjoy a fairly inexpensive camping trip. Camping gear costs can be kept to a minimum; the biggest cost is usually the gas to get to the campground!

6. It's a chance to explore your own backyard

You can make camping even more affordable by visiting your own state parks. Learn more about where you live by

camping close to home and maybe even attending a ranger talk or visiting the park's museum. Hike local trails and be home before Sunday evening.

If you are in the Northern Illinois or Southern Wisconsin area, there are camping options if you are looking to escape! Head to **www.wisconsincampgrounds.com** to find a campground for you and your family to enjoy, without needing to travel too far.

7. It's a good time to de-stress

Take along a star chart or download an app like Star Walk and delve into the mysteries of the universe. You'll realize that most problems will feel very small in comparison to what's above your head. Some campgrounds and parks even have special nighttime and stargazing activities.

8. You could get scared out of your long underwear!

A group camping trip is not complete without some scary storytelling. The darkness, lack of civilization and the fear of spiders and bears will get you in the mood for some creepy stories and spooky fun!

9. You can enjoy some quiet time

If you're interested in backpacking, you can carry everything you need on your back and head into the wilderness. Whether you want to practice survival with some prepper gear, or just have some time to yourself, backpacking on- or off-trail will take you places many people will never see.

10. You may inspire your friends

After your trip, post a few photos of your camping adventure to your social media channels and some of your friends may wish they had come along with you. You just may inspire them to plan their own outdoor getaway!

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