



Tent Camping Guide

A 101 Guide for
Beginner Campers

Created by the Vista
Recreation Team



Packing & Storing Supplies to the Campsite

- Plastic containers/bins labeled for different type of supplies to keep organized and for storing.
- Bring two ice chests: 1 for loose ice that may melt and the other with frozen goods and ice packs.
- Reusable cooler bags are another great option to keep food separated and cool.
- Bucket with campfire essentials inside and tools (more in campfire section)
- Bring Water! You can never have enough.



Campfire Essentials

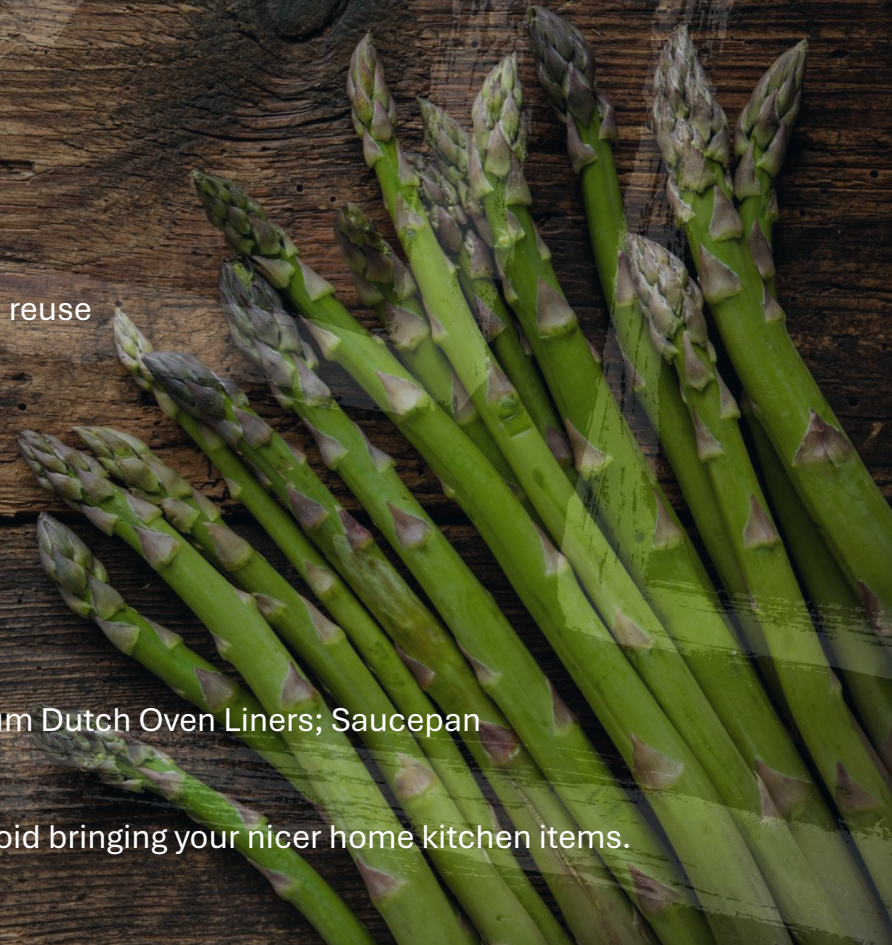
- Gas stove
- Two-burner Camp Stove
- Propane Stove or Grill, Flat Top or Hot Plate (bring extra propane)
- Butane Camp Stove with Butane Canisters
- BBQ Briquettes
- Lighter or Matches
- Fire Starter Log
- Grill Grate
- Axe
- Firewood (purchase locally or at the campground)
- Shovel
- Fire Extinguisher



Utensils and Cooking Essentials

- Knife for cutting vegetables
- Spatula
- Metal Spoon
- Long Handle BBQ Fork or Tongs
- Can Opener
- Wooden Spoon
- Disposable eating utensils, cups, plates; or, metal plates and cups to reuse
- Trash Bags
- Cooking Spray or Oil
- Napkins and Pot Holders
- Skewers for hot dogs or smores
- Foil
- Foil Trays
- **Pots/Pans:** Dutch Oven, Cast Iron Pans/Skillets; Disposable Aluminum Dutch Oven Liners; Saucepan

Tip: Consider purchasing your pots and utensils from a thrift store to avoid bringing your nicer home kitchen items. Also, an omnia oven is great for camping!





Meal Suggestions & Tips

- Tacos
- Pancake mix in a shaker bottle
- Meats (bacon, steak, ground beef, chicken, etc.)
- Canned goods
- Bring protein/breakfast bars, fruit, etc.
- Pack potatoes & onions
- Seasonings (garlic, salt & pepper, etc.)
- BBQ sauce
- Salad Kits
- Pre-mix eggs and place in a container so they don't break in transit
- premade breakfast burritos and heat over grill
- Burgers & Hot Dogs
- Chili
- S'mores ingredients and sticks



How to Properly Store Food While Camping

- Never store food in your tent! Keeping food in your tent will attract unwanted animals and critters into your safe space.
- Make sure to store food in the bear box or store in the car (if instructed to do so by your Camp Host).
- Another option to store food can be to place food in sealable containers and tie up in a tree high enough so animals can't get to them, or use a creek or river to keep things cold (more common for primitive camping where storage lockers are not available).
- Plan to bring sealable containers/bins for your supplies (food, utensils, bedding, etc.). This will help keep things organized and in place during transit.



A man and a child are shown in a wooded area, working together to set up a tent. The man is on the left, leaning over and adjusting a pole. The child is on the right, wearing a grey beanie and a plaid shirt, also focused on the task. The background is filled with green foliage and sunlight filtering through the trees.

Tips for Setting Up Camp and Cleaning:

Setting Up Camp

- Pop-up canopies can provide extra shade during the day or coverage from rain.
- Make sure to bring a ground tarp to place under the tent as a barrier from the soil or insects.

Cleaning:

- A dustpan and broom are essential for sweeping out the tent to keep it clean inside
- An outdoor rug, placed outside the entrance to the tent, will help keep debris from inside the tent.
- Make sure to bring plenty of trash bags!
- A small battery-operated vacuum is a great option to help keep your sleeping space clean and tidy.
- Plastic bags and a W.A.G. bag are great to consider for disposal of personal waste.
- Make sure to bring toilet paper and hand sanitizer/wipes.



Toiletries

- Bring what you use at home but place in travel containers (soap, sanitizer, toothbrush & toothpaste, wipes, shampoo & conditioner)
- Bandana
- Shower Shoes
- Sanitizer Wipes
- Dish & Hand Soap
- Dry Shampoo (if showers are not available)



Comfortable Sleeping Essentials:

Air Mattress

Sleeping Bags

Blow up Sleeping Bag Mats provide extra support

Pillows

Blankets

Traveling light? A stuff sack with a sweatshirt inside can double as a pillow.

Cots if you prefer to sleep off the ground

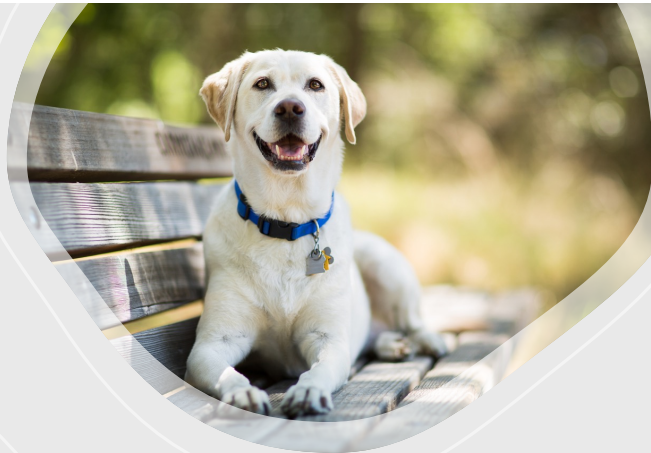
Air Mattress and Blankets in the bed of a truck with camper shell



Coffee: Brewing Ideas

- French Press
- Percolator
- Pot or Kettle to heat water





Tips for Camping with Pets

- Do a trial run first if you don't know if they'll be comfortable. How? Camp outside in your own yard to introduce them to the tent ahead of time. If they don't like it in their own yard, chances are they will not feel comfortable in a foreign space.
- If they like their enclosed space, then keep them in the vehicle (weather permitting) with cracked windows or a kennel in the tent.
- Make sure to bring a leash and a dog cable so they can be mobile in the campsite while not wandering out of the site. Do not tie them to a tree and leave them unattended; take them with you everywhere you go while camping.
- Bring waste bags.
- Don't forget water and food.
- Pop-up food and water bowls help save room.

Lighting & Power

- Radio
- Lantern
- Flashlights
- Extension Cords (if on an electric site)
- Solar Lights
- Generator for any electrical equipment
- Battery-Operated Fan
- Battery-Operated Air Pump
- Solar Power Charger

Don't Forget Essentials!

Misc. Items:

- To stay warm and handling harsh elements: scarf, jacket, beanie, warm socks, extra socks, rain jacket, poncho, and coat
- Rope
- Folding Chairs
- Plenty of Water!
- Bug Spray
- Sunscreen
- Pocket Knife,
- Fishing Gear (if camping near water)
- Water Toys and Life Jackets
- Shovel
- Tylenol or Ibuprofen
- First Aid Kit
- Dish Sponge/Scrub and Soap
- Hammock
- Hand towels
- Map
- Quick-Dry Towel

