



Now that you have some fun camping activities and recipes, it's time to go camping!
If you aren't able to leave home, backyard camping can be just as fun!

Tips for Backyard Camping:

- Only take the essentials: a tent, flashlights/lanterns, sleeping bags, bug spray and sunscreen. You can always run back inside if you really need something.
- Be prepared with some fun activities. Night games are always a hit! Play capture the flag or kick the can.
- Don't forget the campfire treats! If you can make a fire, make a yummy campfire dessert.
- And once it's dark, sing a few campfire songs. We've included a bonus page of campfire songs.
- If you are unable to camp in the yard, building a blanket fort is a fun alternative.

Tips for Building the BEST BLANKET FORT

Making a blanket fort is almost like pitching a tent! You'll create a place safe from the outside world and have fun!

STEP 1: Gather your building materials. Collect as many blankets, pillows, sheets and folding chairs as possible (while your mom isn't looking) and bring them into the room where the fort will be built.

STEP 2: Arrange your 'walls'. Arrange your fort so that the couches and chairs make up the walls of the fort. Use chairs of different heights to make bigger rooms in your fort.

STEP 3: Drape blankets and sheets over chairs and use pillows to hold everything in place. If you have an opening, use a pillow as the door. (Simple enough concept, right?)



STEP 4: Every fort needs secret passageways and tunnels. You never know when the enemy will break down the front gate and come charging in so you'd better have an escape route. My boys use smaller benches/chairs and pop-up tents to add secret passageways to their forts.

STEP 5: Make taller rooms using bar stools. It's not fun to sleep in a blanket fort that is right on top of you, so use sheets and taller chairs to make the perfect 'bedroom'.

STEP 6: Add a fan. You don't want your fort to be too hot so add a box fan to help it stay nice and cool.

STEP 7: Don't forget the snack! Our snack of choice is always popcorn and sometimes the boys get lucky and I make their favorite [Marshmallow Caramel Popcorn](#)