

camp green kid



the ultimate
STEAM summer
survival guide

Ditch screen-time, this summer it's STEAM-time!



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the ultimate STEAM summer survival guide



camp from home



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camp from home



Welcome!

At Green Kid Crafts (GKC), we believe getting kids outdoors makes a difference for their health, development, and socialization. Developing an understanding and appreciation of nature has long-term impacts for growing minds and bodies. As we strive to raise the next generation of environmental leaders, there's no better teacher than our own backyards and local parks.

We're all a little tired of video calls and screen-time, but that doesn't mean creativity has to be lacking! We assembled these tips and ideas to help you create lasting memories and bring the feel of camp to your own neighborhood.

We're so honored you chose us to be a part of your summer.

Thank you,

Penny Bauder

SHOP SUMMER

[#greenkidcrafts](#)



the ultimate STEAM summer survival guide



camp essentials



What makes Camp, **Camp** exactly? It's hard to put your finger on it, but we thought long and hard and pulled together these essentials. Bring that camp feel to your summer, no matter where you are.



▶ set the camp tone

Calling all Campers! Get out of your bunks! It's morning assembly in the backyard! Snacks available at the trading post!

Creating a culture of camp at home can start with simply using Camp-Lingo.

Why not kick off your Summer Camp with an all-kids Orientation where you explain what excitement and activities lie ahead? There's nothing quite as exciting as anticipating an upcoming activity for kids. So to set the tone, think about what's on your family camp program, and talk it up!

▶ find a penpal

Making new friends is a special part of most summer camps, and corresponding with a penpal is a wonderful way to make a special connection from afar.

Reach out to friends, relatives, even neighbors – would you be interested in exchanging letters once a week? We're sure you'll find willing participants, because it's a great way to nurture social connection creatively. Plus, kids love getting things in the mail!

Here are some writing prompts to get you started.

Tell your penpal a little bit about you – name, age, favorite animal, favorite play. What exciting thing did you do this week? Do you have a picture to send? What did you learn/find/see?





camp essentials



▶ build a tent

Building a tent is the ultimate camping tradition, and kids of all ages can be involved in this family activity.

You might have a real camping tent to set up, or you might consider a DIY model. One resource we love to point parents toward is IKEA's very own blanket fort guide. Designed with items most caregivers have on hand, and coupled with IKEA's foolproof [instructions](#) to... make sure assembly is simple. 😊



▶ gather your supplies

A simple packing list and special camp backpack or bag can make it feel like a camping trip, even if you're only going to your backyard.

Water Bottle? Check.
Bug Spray? Check.
Extra socks? Check.
Emergency snacks? Check.





Summer backyard camping involves...fun! For kids and adults alike, making time for not-your-average activities can make any day feel like a special occasion.

Here are a few activities to get you started, and our weekly newsletter for campers will include a whole lot more, so watch your inbox!

▶ diy bottle rocket



In this project, we bring you the ultimate summer kid project where the kids get to build something, watch it take off AND you get to put those empty plastic bottles to good use (and then, recycle them!) This project uses things you already have on hand and gets your kids outside during those long summer months.

Check out this explosive activity [here](#).

▶ fry an egg on the sidewalk

We are bubbling with excitement about summer and being outdoors more! To tell you the truth, we're not sure if this activity is more for adults or children.

If it gets hot enough where you are, consider this activity and put this urban legend to the test.

We tried, and it is possible, plus it's educational too! And delicious!

Check out this Hot Day Activity [here](#).





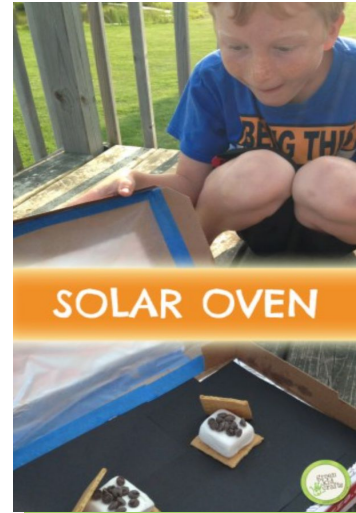
camp activities



▶ solar s'mores

You don't need to build a campfire for your kids to get their fill of gooey marshmallow-and-chocolate s'mores this season. Just tap into the sun's energy and power up a solar oven! Here's an easy pizza box model that will let you catch enough backyard rays to cook the coolest s'mores on the block.

Check out this sweet activity [here](#).



▶ fizzy chalk fireworks

Fireworks are magical, aren't they? The beautiful sparks of glitter and color that fill a night sky and light up everything around them. It's hard to recreate actual fireworks safely, but we can recreate the magic with sidewalk chalk! This activity combines STEAM with imagination and can be enjoyed by children of all ages!

Discover the science and magic [here](#).



▶ diy hobbit house

Growing plants from seeds is something that kids of all ages can enjoy from toddlerhood to teens. This activity takes the joys of gardening and combines it with engineering and imagination for a delightful STEAM activity. Watch your kids build their own hobbit house and miniature garden.

This activity is not only fun, it also helps kids tune in to the real or fictitious creatures they share their backyard ecosystem with. :)

Your imaginative gardeners can start [here](#).





camp food



Tastes like... Camp!

It's true, we'll share our camp favorite recipes through our weekly newsletter, but here's a couple to get you started. And don't forget to follow our [Pinterest](#) boards for loads more inspiration!

Chicken Burger [Recipe](#)



Baked Taquitos [Recipe](#)



Eco-Friendly
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Projects for Kids**

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FOR DINNER**



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camp nights



What's more campy than camp nights? If you're lucky to have a clear night on your summer backyard camping, be sure to spread out a blanket, get some pillows, and enjoy the night.

And to cap off each evening, we've put together some camp night activities for you.



▶ firefly jar craft

Firefly light is magical, intermittent, flashing lights in beautiful patterns. Did you know each blinking pattern is a visual cue used by fireflies to find their mate?

Don't have fireflies where you are? Try this fun [firefly jar craft](#).



▶ stargazing

Kids and adults love looking at the night sky – it's like a giant puzzle! And what better way to teach your kids about Astronomy. A wonderful backyard STEAM activity!

Constellations, individual stars, planets, there is so much to look for.

How to get started stargazing?

Pick the right conditions: Best is when there's no clouds and little moonlight.

If you have tools: binoculars, a telescope, a stargazing map!

Get a great stargazing guide for kids [here](#).





camp nights



camp stories

Camp Stories are a surefire way to bring that campfire feeling anywhere. But what makes a good campfire story exactly? We love this simple advice from lovetheoutdoors.com

Simple. A good campfire story is simple, not convoluted.

Original. Campfire stories are best when exciting, suspenseful, and full of twists.

Sensory. Engage the senses and be as descriptive as possible. Without the visual cues a picture book affords, try to paint a picture with words. And see how many adjectives you can use. :)

So light the fire, grab a chair or blanket, make some s'mores, and enjoy this tradition. For story ideas, check out this kid-friendly spooky story collection from KOA!



about Green Kid Crafts

Green Kid Crafts is empowering the next generation of environmental leaders using creative, nature-based STEAM activities. Founded by mother and environmental scientist Penny Bauer in 2010, Green Kid Crafts has sold over 1.5 million boxes specially designed to help children exercise creativity, develop a love of discovery, and learn about the world around them.



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