

Campfire songs

Beginning songs:

Campfire's burning

You can sing this song together, or split into four groups and sing it as a round. To sing it as a round, each group should start the song when the group to their left starts the second line.

Campfire's burning, campfire's burning
Draw nearer, draw nearer
In the glowing, in the glowing
Come sing and be merry.

Heads, shoulders, knees and toes

This well known song with actions is good to get everyone joining in. Whether they want to stand up or sit down, people can tap the area of their bodies matching the words. Repeat the song, each time replacing a body part by humming – until you hum the whole song.

Heads, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes
Heads, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes and eyes, and ears, and mouth, and nose
Heads, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes.

Hum, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes
Hum, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes and eyes, and ears, and mouth, and nose
Hum, shoulders, knees and toes, knees and toes.

And so on.

Yogi Bear

I've got a friend that you don't know
Yogi, Yogi.
I've got a friend that you don't know
Yogi, Yogi Bear.

Yogi, Yogi Bear, Yogi, Yogi Bear
I've got a friend that you don't know
Yogi, Yogi Bear.

Other verses:

He's got a friend that you don't know
Boo-Boo, Boo-Boo Bear.

He's got a girlfriend you don't know
Cindy, Cindy Bear.

They have an enemy you don't know

Ranger, Ranger Smith.

They all live in Jellystone
Jelly, Jellystone.

Middle songs

The pirate song

When I was one I sucked my thumb
The day I went to sea
I jumped aboard a pirate ship and the captain said to me:
'We're going this way, that way, forwards and backwards
Over the deep blue sea
A patch on my eye, the sun in the sky
And that's the life for me!'

Each time you sing the verse, replace the first line with the next number up, and a rhyme. Here are some suggestions, but you can add your own:

- When I was two – I played a kazoo
- When I was three – I hurt my knee
- When I was four – I shut the door
- When I was five – I danced a jive
- When I was six – I picked up sticks
- When I was seven – I went to Devon
- When I was eight – I high-fived my mate
- When I was nine – I jumped the line
- When I was ten – I found a hen

Actions

I jumped aboard a pirate ship (jump on the spot) and the captain said to me: (salute from the forehead)
'We're going this way, that way, forwards and backwards (lean to the right, then the left, then forwards, then backwards)
Over the deep blue sea (wave arm in front of you like a wave)
A patch on my eye (cover one eye with your hand), the sun in the sky (wave other hand across the sky)
And that's the life for me!' (slap thigh with hand in celebration)

Jelly on a plate vs porridge in a pot

This song creates a fun competition. Split the audience into two groups. One group will be jelly, the other will be porridge. Each side will take it in turns to sing their song normally, and then it's time for the competition – which group can sing the loudest?

Jelly on a plate	Porridge in a pot
Jelly on a plate	Porridge in a pot
Wibble wobble	Wibble wobble
Wibble wobble	Wibble wobble

Alice the camel

You could do this song standing up and linking arms – then, during the last line of the song, people will bump into each other.

Alice the camel has five humps
Alice the camel has five humps
Alice the camel has five humps
So go, Alice, go
Boom, boom, boom.

(Repeat with four, three, two, and one hump(s))

Alice the camel has no humps
Alice the camel has no humps
Alice the camel has no humps
Now Alice is a horse!

Actions:

Alice the camel has five humps (bend knees and bob down)
Alice the camel has five humps (bend knees and bob down)
Alice the camel has five humps (bend knees and bob down)
So go, Alice, go
Boom, boom, boom (wiggle from side to side in time with the words)

Ending songs

Create a rainstorm

This calmer song is great to quieten the audience down. The person leading the song should tell the audience they're going to create a rainstorm together – but there can't be any talking, or it'll disrupt the storm cloud.

The person leading the song will stand in front of someone, and do an action. That person should copy the person leading the song, and keep doing that action until the person leading the song stands in front of them doing another action. The song leader will walk around the group, so people start doing the actions gradually and build up – just like a rainstorm.

Suggested actions:

- Rub your hands together
- Click your fingers
- Pat your thighs
- Clap intermittently (every so often, irregularly)
- Stomp your feet
- Clap intermittently (every so often, irregularly)
- Pat your thighs

- Click your fingers
- Rub your hands together
- Everyone goes quiet

The goodnight song

This song is great to dismiss part of the audience at a time. With each verse, the person leading the song can dismiss part of the campfire – whether it's grown ups, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, or Explorers.

The person leading the song should announce who'll be leaving next (for example, Beavers), then everyone can sing:

Goodnight Beavers, goodnight Beavers
Goodnight Beaver, it's time for you to go.

Sadly it's time to part, time to part, time to part,
Sadly it's time to part, and to say goodnight.