



GO WILD CAMPING

If you're looking for a thrilling micro-adventure, plan a wild camping trip for your section armed with this essential knowledge

If venturing off the beaten track and spending a night or two in the wilderness appeals to your section, then consider camping in the wild. Best done in small groups, it will get you closer to nature, give you a great feeling of adventure – and it's free! Discover your own bit of hidden beauty with no ugly facilities blocks, no people, no cars... Though the flipside of this is there are no creature comforts, so you'll have to carry all your gear with you and be super-responsible when nature calls. But if the idea of being remote floats your boat, then swing your tent on your back and go wild. For more information, try campsites.co.uk/guides/wild-camping.



1.

DON'T BREAK THE LAW

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland you have no legal rights to go wild camping and should seek permission, although in Scotland access is more open. There are some areas, such as parts of Dartmoor, that allow wild camping, so do your research first.

2.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

It's crucial to research the area you're planning to visit first. For example, there are firing ranges in the north of Dartmoor, so it's best to stick to the south of the region. Mobile phone signals might be scarce so assume you'll have to do without.

3.

THE WILD CAMPING CODE

Wild it may be, but there are still rules, so before venturing out, note the following: once you've found your perfect pitch don't hang around; it's camping etiquette to be up and away in the morning. And during your stay, be respectful of your neighbours – human and animal. No camping near dwellings and keep the noise levels down. Also, respect your

DOS AND DON'TS

- Do camp at least 100m away from roads
- Don't leave any rubbish behind
- Do respect 'no camping signs'
- Don't light an open fire
- Don't leave food around for animals and never feed them
- Don't use any soap, shampoo or detergents
- Do have a contingency plan – take a note of the nearest campsite or B&B, just in case
- Don't go to the toilet near rivers or streams – always find somewhere inland and bury your waste.
- Do make sure you hold a relevant Nights Away permit.

BADGE



GO Outdoors partners the Hikes Away and Nights Away Staged Activity Badges

PARTNER



OUTCOMES

Your young people will get a sense of what wild camping really entails and can start researching and planning their own adventure.

TAKING IT FURTHER

What might it be like to wild camp in a different country? Where could they go and what might they need? Discuss the most interesting places to visit with your Group, then ask them to think about how they can 'make the trip happen and what they'd need to do to prepare.

MORE INFORMATION

GO Outdoors will be supporting Scouts of all ages in achieving the Hikes Away and Nights Away Staged Activity Badges, by providing downloadable resources, in-store activities and much more to prepare you for adventures. To find out more about GO Outdoors, visit scouts.org.uk/gooutdoors.

landscape – leave no trace behind. Don't be tempted to take anything away with you, not the smallest wildflower or a pretty lichen-covered stone. If you want to take something, take a photograph. And, though you might fall in love with the place, don't get so overwhelmed that you scratch your name in a rock – it'll last hundreds of years – or carve a heart on a tree – this will wound the tree and could lead to disease.

4.

TRAVELLING LIGHT

Open fires aren't allowed so take a small, light camping stove to cook on. You will need to carry your own food and water, tent, sleeping bag and sleeping mat so make sure your tent is small and light. Try to blend in with your rural surroundings so avoid neon tents and stick to green or brown instead. Camouflage tents are popular. Don't forget essentials such as a torch, whistle, first-aid kit and, of course, your sense of adventure!