



**GREAT AMERICAN
CAMPOUT™**

Camping Fun with Ranger Rick

Camping is a great way to connect to wildlife and the natural world.

Look closer at the amazing things that are right outside your tent or RV.

Join in the National Wildlife Federation's Great American Campout™. From May to October, pledge to camp and enter to win great camping themed prizes. Learn more at nwf.org/campout

Try these activities at night after the sun goes down.

Play Flashlight Tag

Flashlight tag is a great way to burn off your kids' energy before bed!

WHAT YOU NEED



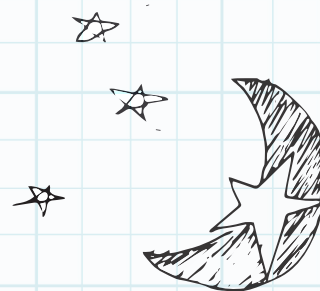
Flashlights,
hand-held and/or head lamps



Tripod
(optional, if taking photos)



Camera
(optional, if taking photos)



WHAT YOU DO

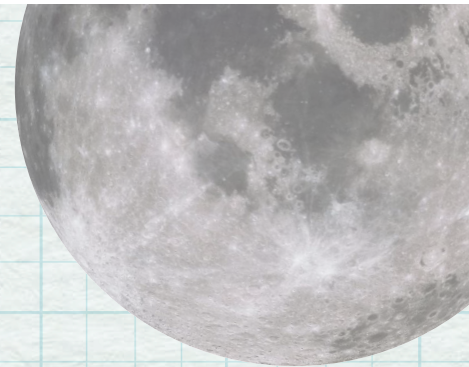
1. Decide on the boundaries of the game, using trees or existing structures in a park or backyard.
 - a. Whoever is "it" waits at home base with a flashlight and counts to 20.
 - b. When they're done, they set out hunting for the others with the light.
 - c. "It" tags a player by shining the light on them and identifying them (calling out their name).
 - d. Once "tagged," players return to the starting point until all are caught.
 - e. The first person caught is "it" in the next round.

2. It's fun to take photos of flashlight tag.

You need a tripod and a digital camera with a night setting.

Set up the tripod and ask the players to run toward the camera. The camera shutter will stay open a long time in order to gather enough light for the photo. The flashlights appear as swirling lines on the photo.





Observe Bugs at Night

Set up a light and a white screen, and you'll see all sorts of new bugs at night — like a bug movie.

WHAT YOU NEED



Clipboard
(optional)



Clothes pins



Extension cord,
if light source is not
battery operated



Insect repellent,
if you are concerned
about mosquito bites



Light source
(lamp or lantern)



Magnifying glass
(optional)



Paper or sketchbook
(optional)



Pencil
(optional)



Rope
(twice as long as your
pillow case or towel)



White pillow case
or towel

WHAT YOU DO

1. Find a place to hang a short clothesline at the height of your shortest bug observers.

The line only needs to be about the length of a pillow case.

Then pin a white pillow case to the line.

Bring in a light source such as a camping lantern or large flashlight.

2. Turn off any nearby lights.

Wait at least 10 minutes. Slowly the insects will become attracted to your light and will land on the white pillow case or towel. Then you can observe them up close.

On your clipboard, draw some of the bugs you see, or keep track of how many of each type came to your bug observation station.



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