

# Camp Crafting



## Complete eight activities.

- 1.** Make a sit-upon. Before the days of fancy folding chairs and plastic seat cushions, girls made sit-upons to take to camp to use around the campfire. One traditional sit-upon is made out of folded strips of newspaper that are woven together. Do you know of any other types of sit-upons that Girl Scouts made?
- 2.** Make a drip bag. Everyone brought their mess kits to camp in drip bags. A traditional drip bag is made out of two open-weave dishcloths (you can find these at all the large discount stores). Sew three sides of the dishcloths together and weave a shoestring or any other drawstring around the opening. Some people still call these bags dunk bags because girls used to dunk their mess kits in the bags into the final rinse. When they were eating, their drip bags also served as placemats and napkins.
- 3.** Make a toggle for your drip bag. Campers often found sticks to carve into toggles. These were used to attach the drawstrings of their drip bags to the clothesline so their dishes could dry.
- 4.** Girl Scouts know the importance of having a bandana at camp. Think of all the ways a bandana can be used. Make a list to share with others. Design and decorate a bandana for yourself and use it during your next outdoor activity.
- 5.** Make a hobo sack. Girls made “hobo sacks” to attach to their belts to carry their lunches or other items that they might need on a hike.
- 6.** Make a lanyard to wear around your neck. Lanyards have become popular to wear around your neck to keep track of your keys. Girl Scouts have been making these for a long time. With all the colors available in plastic lanyard cord today, girls may find it hard to make only one!
- 7.** Find out what lashing is. How many items can you find that Girl Scouts used to lash and use around a campsite? Try your hand at lashing a simple picture frame or a simple hanger made out of sticks. Be sure to undo the lashing when you are finished camping so as not to “litter” the out-of-doors.
- 8.** Make something out of wood that can be used around your campsite. One project to do is to make a three-legged stool. Think of other items that you could make not only for yourself but also as good service projects. Making a covered stand for firewood is an example of a service project.
- 9.** Make something that you could use at a campfire or as a part of a Scouts’ Own. If you do not know, find out what a Scouts’ Own is. Some suggestions of things to make are marshmallow forks or a tin can lantern.
- 10.** Learn what a bedroll is and how to make one. What would be the advantages and disadvantages of taking a bedroll with you on your next camping trip?
- 11.** Find out what swaps are. Make some swaps that reflect your interests and swap with another Girl Scout. Check Girl Scout websites for swap ideas.

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- 12.** Interview someone who has been in Girl Scouts for a long time. Did she attend camp when she was younger? Where was the camp? Was she required to wear a special camp uniform? What were her favorite things to make and do at camp? Did the camp that she attended have a special place to make crafts? Would she teach you her favorite activity or craft that she did when she went camping? Does she still like to go camping? Why or why not?
- 13.** Check in old Girl Scout books for camp crafts and activities. Are there activities in these books that you still do at camp today? Try one of the activities that you have never done before. Why are some of the activities the same and why are some of them different?
- 14.** Check out old outdoor cookbooks, old Girl Scout handbooks, and old Girl Scout cookbooks for outdoor recipes. Find two or three that are the same as the ones used today. Find two or three that are very different from today's recipes. Try one.
- 15.** Organize a camp crafters' tournament for your troop, service unit, or camp. Create team or individual events involving camp skills so that girls can test their skills in a friendly tournament.



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