



Friends of NCTC Program Activity
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It's Raining, It's Pouring!

(ages 5 and older)

Background

Everyone likes to be outside, but sometimes it's just too stormy, blustery, or wet to enjoy being out. While you're waiting, here are some indoor nature ideas.

What You Will Need for This Project (materials and supplies)

- >Edible Campfire Supplies: mini marshmallows, graham cracker, large and small pretzel sticks, shredded coconut or chow mein noodles, red hot candies, candy corn.
- >A Blanket, lantern or flashlight, maybe even rope
- >Bandana or similar item
- >Nature themed books
- >Indoor scavenger hunt clues
- >Leave No Trace For Kids List

What to Do

Indoor Scavenger Hunt

These ideas were found online at duesd.org (The Delano Union School District, Delano CA)

Challenge yourself, your friends, your family to find the following. To make it harder, go in order (find the first thing on the list before going on to the second.)

- A Toy With Wheels
- A Book With The First Letter Of Your Name In The Title. (Make It Harder, The First Letter Of Your Name Must Be The First Letter In A Word In The Title.)
- A Pair Of Matching Socks
- 4 Things That Are Green
- Something Very Soft
- A Toy Smaller Than Your Hand
- Something Round
- A Pair Of Mis-Matched Socks
- Something From Your Mom's Purse (Absolutely Ask Her First!!)
- A Book With Numbers In The Title
- 5 Legos That Are All Different
- A Photo Of Someone You Love (Or The Dog Or Cat)
- An Item You Can See Yourself In
- Something That Makes You Feel Cozy
- A Toy That Has 5 Different Colors In It
- A Movie That Has "S" In The Title
- Your Snuggliest Stuffed Animal (But Not The Same Thing As Something That Makes You Feel Cozy)

Now put everything back where it belongs!

Think of 5 Uses For a Bandana and Try Them Out

Once you think of 5 uses, try for 10! A napkin? A dog collar? What else?! If you don't have an actual bandana handy, you can use a dish towel, a rag, or a fabric scrap.

Learn The 7 Leave No Trace Principles For Kids

Talk with an adult about what you think these seven principles mean and then think of ways you can keep them on your next walk outside. Adults can help you think if you get stumped!

- Know Before You Go (where are you going?)
- Choose the Right Path (what the best thing about a trail?)
- Trash Your Trash (is there a trashcan available?)
- Leave What You Find (what's the best thing to discover in nature?)
- Be Careful With Fire (what could catch fire?)
- Respect Wildlife (what's the best way to watch animals in nature?)
- Be Kind to Other Visitors (how can you do that?)

Build an Indoor Camp Site (Make a Tent!)

If you have a real tent that can be put up without stakes, put it up in your living room or bedroom. Or, make a tent using a blanket over furniture. Then turn off all the lights, turn on a flashlight, and tell ghost stories!



Make an Edible Campfire

Every campfire should be built safely and effectively. Here are instructions for a real fire with suggestions for the edible one in parentheses.

- >Clear the area and create a fire ring (mini marshmallows and a graham cracker)
- >Make a "V" or "A" shape on the ground with large wood (3 pretzel sticks)
- >Place smaller wood in the V or A shape (put potato sticks, or smaller pretzel sticks in the shape)
- >Add tinder that will catch fire quickly (add shredded coconut or chow mein noodles)
- >Light the fire and create some beginning flame (add red hot candies for glowing embers)
- >Keep your fire burning (add candy corn for the flames)
- >Admire your "fire" and then eat it!

Read a book or story about the out of doors. Here are some ideas...

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George (there are 3 in the series)

Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George (there are 3 in the series)

Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt by Kate Messner

Flute's Journey by Lynne Cherry

How Groundhog's Garden Grew by Lynne Cherry

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen (also *Scat*, *Chomp*, *Squirm*...this author has a lot of fun books)

Where The Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

Helpful Hints for Adults (books to read, other websites, links)

Here are some ideas for the **Uses For A Bandana**: napkin, headband, hair tie, bandage for a cut, dishwasher strainer, washcloth, tissue, sweat band, sling for arm injury, emergency signal on a disabled car, dog collar, ankle stabilizer for a twisted ankle,

Leave No Trace Principles For Kids

Know Before You Go (Make a plan and let someone know where you are going)

Choose the Right Path (Stay on durable surfaces like trails)

Trash Your Trash (Don't leave trash on the trail, pack it out!)

Leave What You Find (Don't collect rocks, flowers, feathers, etc. Leave them for someone else to discover.)

Be Careful With Fire (Build fires only in approved areas. Avoid fires on windy days, Never leave it unattended)

Respect Wildlife (Do not feed or tease wildlife. Use binoculars to watch them. Be quiet in their presence)

Be Kind to Other Visitors (Avoid screaming or yelling or running on trails or in the woods)