

# ROCKY TOP NEWS

**PUBLISHED BY THE ROCKY TOP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**FREE**

**APRIL 2020**

**FREE**

Lake City Elementary School celebrated Read Across America with some paired reading. Pictured are some of our third graders reading with kindergarten. The most improved readers from each class were recognized as well. They are:

Caldwell: Jace Miller & Garrett Shepperd

Daniel: Maleia Carroll & Marley LaRue

Stiles: Addie Renfro & Noah Robinson

Bullock: Jace Kuriger & Jeffrey Whittington

Hicks: Katie Jackson & Destiny Wilson

Lowe: Aaleiya Henderson & Tinsley Johnson

Chesney: Allison Holt & Logan Perkins

LaForty: Bentley Settles & Aidan Whittle

K. Phillips: Mariah Rutherford & Quinn Peavley

Moore: Rolando Franco-Pineda & Tyler Jackson

Strickland: Seana Elliot-Cross & Aliyah Mull

Vowell: Taber Jernigan & Coltyn Noe

Elkins: Remy Harris & Jacob Weaver

Meredith: Charli Braden & Mia Johnson

Williams: Sierra Mitchell & Jason Neeley

Doughty: Reagan Green & Aubri Neer

Prewitt: Stella Farrow & Josh Williams

Vance: Destiny Hensley & Kendra Smith



## ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

The City of Rocky Top held its 3rd Annual Arbor Day Celebration on March 6, 2020. Students from Briceville and Lake City Elementary both attended the event. This is the 2nd year that Rocky Top has been awarded a Tree City USA designation. To celebrate this award a flag was raised over the Rocky Top Community Center, a flowering dogwood tree planted, and over 100 Pin Oak Seedlings passed out. Librarians Norma Day and Daphne Windham from Rocky Top Public Library and Briceville Public Library were presented books that related to trees such as "The Giving Tree" and "The Lorax". Representatives from both elementary schools received books as well. Dakota Hoover did an exemplary job reading the Arbor Day proclamation. Refreshments were served to all in attendance. Tim Hatmaker is the Rocky Top Tree Committee Chairperson and its other members include: Denise Casteel, Robert Griffith, Sharon Kinser and David Byrge. City Recorder Kari Hancock has also played a major role in the city's tree efforts. The City of Rocky Top's Tree Committee would like to thank the Norris Tree Commission for assistance and guidance.



## SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Rocky Top News is published by volunteers who are not always able to gather all of the news happenings in Rocky Top. Therefore, we are asking for your help. If you are at an event, please take a picture and email it to the Rocky Top News at rockytopchamber@gmail.com with the details of the event. Also, if you are involved in an organization or group that is planning an event in Rocky Top, please email or call the Rocky Top News with the details. There is no event too big or too small to let us know about.

## AREA EVENTS IN AND AROUND ROCKY TOP COMMUNITY

May 16	Dogwood Regatta on Melton Hill Lake
May 25	Oak Ridge Community Band Memorial Day Concert
June 6	Flatwater Tales Storytelling Festival
June 12	Market Nights in Historic Downtown Clinton
June 15-21	Great Smoky Mountain Trail Ride at Windrock Park
July 4	July 4th Celebration & Anvil Shoot
July 4	Annual Norris Day July 4th Celebration
July 4	Clinton Fireworks and 4th of July Event
July 4	Rocky Top July 4th Celebrations
July 4	Independence Day Concert & Firework Show in Oak Ridge

## Chamber Networking

Below are our currently scheduled 2020 Networking Coffee's. We will update this list as more are scheduled. All coffee's are from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. unless noted otherwise. This is a great opportunity for Chamber members to network with other Chamber members. Everyone is welcome. If you are interested in joining the chamber, please feel free to attend any these events. For more information about the Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce, visit [www.rockytopchamber.com](http://www.rockytopchamber.com)

**Joint Networking Coffee with Anderson County Chamber at Community Trust Bank in Clinton**  
Thursday, May 7th, 8am-9:30am

**Networking Coffee at Coal Creek Smokehouse**  
Tuesday, June 16th, 8am-9:30am

**Joint Networking Coffee with Anderson County Chamber and Campbell County Chamber at Powell-Clinch Utility District**  
Thursday, July 16th, 8am-9:30am



**Join our Mission**  
865-426-9595 • [RockyTopTNChamber.com](http://RockyTopTNChamber.com)

## CITY OF ROCKY TOP MEETING SCHEDULE

City Court	2nd Wednesday of the Month at 8:00 a.m.
Downtown Growth Committee	2nd Thursday of the Month at 6:00 p.m.
Planning Commission	3rd Tuesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting	3rd Thursday of the Month at 6:00 p.m.



**ROCKY TOP TENNESSEE**



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This paper is published by the Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce monthly and is free to the public.

Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce  
P. O. Box 1054  
Rocky Top, TN 37769  
865-426-9595

[rockytopchamber@gmail.com](mailto:rockytopchamber@gmail.com)

Please submit events, content and ads by email.

### Rocky Top News Advertising Rates

#### Newspaper Sponsorship-\$300.00

Includes a full page advertisement for one month of the advertiser's choosing based on availability (value \$125) and eleven months of business card size advertisement (value \$220). Total savings of \$45.00. Sponsorship also includes a article about the advertiser's business.

#### Rocky Top Chamber Member's Rates

Full Page.....	\$100.00
Half Page.....	\$50.00
Quarter Page.....	\$25.00
Business Card 3 1/2" x 2"....	\$10.00

#### Non-Rocky Top Chamber Member's Rates

Full Page.....	\$125.00
Half Page.....	\$75.00
Quarter Page.....	\$50.00
Business Card 3 1/2" x 2"....	\$20.00

**Classified Advertisements available to \$5 per line**

Contact the Rocky Top Chamber of Commerce for multi-month discounts

## Gary Cooper Insurance

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# I AM ONE

*...who will stay safe and sober on Prom night.*



*This material was developed through a project funded by the Tennessee Highway Safety Office.*

## CRAFTING FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



Bring your project and finish it as you socialize with other women of similar interest. Don't have a project, help with one that will benefit others: Chemo and Infant Hats, Lap Robes for Shut-ins, Mats for the Homeless. The only skill you need is a big heart.

**Everyone Welcome**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the Month  
4-6pm**

**First Baptist Church of Rocky Top  
Fellowship Hall**

Park in the lower parking lot and look for the sign on the door.

March 18th, 2020

I would like to say Thank You to I-75 Auto Parts located in Caryville, TN for the generosity showed during a Tennessee Association of Rescue Squad Basic Extrication course during the month of March. They provided vehicles from their property for the purpose of testing firefighters so they could recertify in Basic Extrication. They provided the Rocky Top Fire Department with two (2) vehicles for us to extricate with. Seven (7) firefighters from the Rocky Top Fire Department participated and had both their cognitive and psychomotor skills tested as a result of the generosity that I-75 Auto Parts showed by providing the Rocky Top Fire Department vehicles. All seven (7) participants successfully passed the practical and cognitive exams of the certification process which we would not have been able to do if not for I-75 Auto Parts' willingness to help a local fire department. Lastly, I would like to give my gratitude to Lowe's Tows located in Clinton, TN. Lowe's Tows hauled the cars from I-75 Auto Parts to our designated testing site.

Thank you,

Joshua S Lane  
 Training Officer  
 Rocky Top Fire Department



American Red Cross

## Water Safety Tips

Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards.



Always swim with a buddy.



If you go boating, wear a life jacket!



Install and use barriers around your home pool or hot tub.



Actively supervise children whenever around the water.



Always stay within arm's reach of young children and avoid distractions.



Reach or throw aid to distressed swimmers – don't go!



Keep toys not in use away from the pool and out of sight.



Be water safe this summer. [redcross.org/watersafetytips](http://redcross.org/watersafetytips)



# Lake City Elementary School wants to recognize the following Students of the Month for their kindness.

### Kindergarten:

Christian Phillips & Lilly Foster; Not pictured: Shaelyn Taylor



### Third Grade:

Katie Miles, Emmily Wells, Jasper Culanggo, Gabi Braden



### First Grade:

Gabriel Seiber, Luke Enix, Addison Hopper



### Fourth Grade:

Julia Owens, Mia Johnson, Sierra Mitchell



### Second Grade:

Jasmine Flores, Hailey Hall; Not pictured: Ally Johnson



### Fifth Grade:

James Roaden & Kendra Smith Not pictured: Lucus Taylor



Lake City Elementary School was able to raise over \$2,000 to benefit Second Harvest during their Empty Bowls Art Show and Meal on March 12th. Thank you for your support of this event. Pictured are just a few of the "empty bowls" that were on display.



# you could be advertising here!!!

Reach 1,500 readers that live and work in Rocky Top and surrounding communities for as low as \$10 a month.  
865-426-9595 / info@rockytopchamber.com

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Facebook.com/RockyTopTennessee



## ROCKY TOP PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS & EVENTS

On Saturday, March 21 st the Rocky Top Public Library was closed to the public until further notice due to community health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 virus and recommendations from the CDC (Center Disease Control). We are now offering a no contact Curbside Pickup service.

**To use the curbside pickup service please follow these procedures:**

**Call the library and request books or reserve on-line.**

**Staff will call letting you know when items are available for pick up.**

**If you have items to return, please place them in the drop box in front of the library (we will not accept any materials at the door).**

**Have library card ready to show upon arrival (through the glass door).**

**Park in the front and call the library when you arrive.**

**Stay in your vehicle until a box with your materials are set outside the door in a bag with your name and library card number on them.**

**Come to door and show your library card to staff member through the glass door, pickup your materials and leave.**

***We ask that you don't ask to come in as that will not be permitted during this time of closure. Please do all correspondence by telephone or email. We will not be able to answer any questions at the door.***

If anyone in your household is ill, please refrain from returning books or utilizing the curbside service.

We will not charge fines or fees during this time of closure. All materials will have a month long due date. ALL materials may be returned in the drop box in the front of the library.

If you need internet service, our public WIFI will be available from our parking lot during regular business hours. You may log in to our website at [rockytoppubliclibrary.com](http://rockytoppubliclibrary.com) for other services that are available.

Please check out the Libby app through your device's app store for thousands of free eBooks and audiobooks.

Due to all programs being canceled until further notice we are providing Storytime, STEAM projects, Craft Classes and lots of other information on our Facebook and website. Don't forget to check us out!

For questions please message us on Facebook, email the library at [rockytoppubliclibrary@comcast.net](mailto:rockytoppubliclibrary@comcast.net) or give us a call at 865-426-6762.

### How to log in and access our on-line catalog from the website:

1. Log into: [rockytoppubliclibrary.com](http://rockytoppubliclibrary.com)
2. Click on: Request an Item
3. Select Log In: It is automatically defaulted to TENV
4. Select Drop Down Box: You will be given an option to select your library. Type in Rocky Top Public Library.
5. Enter your library card number
6. Enter userpass as your password when you first set your account up. You can change the password once your account is set up.
7. You will now have full access to all the materials at the library and can renew and reserve materials you would like to check out.

## NEW BOOKS & DVD'S

### Adult Fiction:

The Farmer's Bride by Kathleen Fuller  
 You Belong with Me by Tari Faris  
 Blindside by James Patterson  
 Twisted Twenty-Six by Janet Evanovich  
 Look-Alike by Erica Spindler  
 Golden in Death by J.D. Robb  
 The Museum of Desire by Jonathan Kellerman  
 Sisters by Choice by Susan Mallery  
 When You See Me by Lisa Gardner  
 Journey of the Pharohs by Clive Cussler  
 Long Range by C.J. Box  
 Bed of Roses by Nora Roberts  
 The More the Merrier by Linda Byler  
 The Numbers Game by Danielle Steele  
 The Rivers Murders by James Patterson  
 Sleeping Beauties by Stephen King  
 A Forgotten Murder by Jude Deveraux  
 Hit List by Stuart Woods  
 The Sea Glass Cottage by RaeAnn Thayne  
 Secrets of My Heart by Tracie Peterson  
 You are not Alone by Greer Hendricks  
 The Big Lie by James Grippando  
 Lost at Sea by Erica Boyce

### Non-Fiction:

Parenting Kids with OCD by Bonnie Zucker  
 Ask Dr. Tony by Tony Attwood  
 Children and Youth with Complex Cerebral Palsy by Laurie Glader  
 Positive Discipline for Preschoolers by Jane Nelsen  
 Fun with cork by Jutta Handrup  
 Bird House Make and Makeover by Alan Goodsell  
 The Rock the Road and the Rabbi by Kathie Lee Gifford  
 Jesus by Max Lucado  
 Astrology by Rae Orion  
 Keto for Life by Mark Sisson  
 Digestive Health by Mayo Clinic  
 Why Did I Come Into this Room by Joan Lunden  
 Pearls of Wisdom by Barbara Bush

### Adult Paperback:

Country Strong by Linda Lael Miller  
 Love at Pebble Creek by Lisa Jones Baker  
 All He'll Ever Need by Loree Lough  
 Where Love Finds You by Virginia Wise  
 Huckleberry Lake by Catherine Anderson  
 Longing for Yesterday by Debbie Macomber  
 Loving Jenna by Amy Lillard  
 Tucker by Emily March

His Unexpected Amish Twins by Rachel Good  
 The Amish Wedding Promise by Laura Hilton  
 Seduce Me with Sapphires by Jane Feather  
 Hart's Hollow Farm by Janet Daily  
 The Coming Storm by Nora Roberts  
 The Stranger Next Door by Debra Webb  
 Last Chance Rodeo by Kari Lynn Dell

### Westerns:

Preacher's Frenzy by William Johnstone  
 Hired Guns by William Johnstone  
 Rope Burn by William Johnstone  
 The Backstabbers by William Johnstone  
 Shot to Hell by William Johnstone  
 Dead Time by William Johnstone

### Young Adult Fiction:

The Amazing Spider-Man by Nick Spencer  
 House of Earth and Blood by Sarah J. Maas

### Juvenile Non-Fiction:

Hammerhead Shark by Jenna Gleisner  
 Angel Shark by Jenna Gleisner  
 Let's Play Sports! Soccer by Thomas Adamson  
 Reptiles and Amphibians by Michael Leach  
 Online Safety by Sarah Schutte  
 Police Stations by Emma Bassier  
 Children's Museums by Emma Bassier  
 Fire Stations by Emma Bassier  
 Firefighter by Jeff Barger  
 Police Officer by Jeff Barger  
 North American Animals, Muskrats by Al Albertson  
 North American Animals, Cottonmouths by Al Albertson  
 North American Animals, Common Box Turtles by Al Albertson  
 North American Animals, American Bullfrogs by Al Albertson  
 Let's Play Sports! Basketball by Thomas Adamson  
 Let's Play Sports! Cheerleading by Jill Sherman  
 Let's Play Sports! Football by Thomas Adamson  
 Let's Play Sports! Wrestling by Jill Sherman  
 Dawn and the Impossible Three by Raina Telgemeier

### Juvenile:

Masters of Mischief by Renee Russell  
 Shouting in the Rain by Lynda Hunt  
 Dog Man for Whom the Ball Rolls by Dav Pilkey  
 Dog Man Fetch-22 by Dav Pilkey  
 Last Kids on Earth Survival Guide by Max Brallier  
**Children's Easy:**  
 Little Libraries, Big Heroes by Miranda Paul  
 Love, Splat by Rob Scotton  
 Llama Llama Mess, Mess, Mess by Anna Dewdney  
 You Loves Ewe! By Cece Bell  
 I Yam a Donkey! By Cece Bell  
 It's Good to Have a Grandma by Maryann Macdonald  
 It's Good to Have a Grandpa by Maryann Macdonald  
 Silly Lullaby by Sandra Boynton  
 I Love You, Little Pookie by Sandra Boynton  
 You are My Cupcake by Joyce Wan  
 Dinosaurs by Sandra Boynton  
 Grandma Hugs by Hanna Hall  
 Grandpa Love by Hannah Hall  
 The Going to Bed Book by Sandra Boynton



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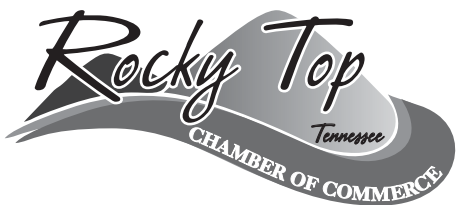
## Main Street Baptist Church

215 4th Street, Rocky Top • 865-426-2499 • www.msbcrt.org

"Main Street Baptist Church strives to provide life-changing ministries for every member of the family. Through worship and discipleship training, we hope to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ with the Rocky Top community. We also offer a Food Pantry (Tuesday 12-2pm) and the Rocky Top Recovery program (Thursday 7pm) for individuals or families of individuals with addiction issues."



Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.



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# THANK YOU

Lake City Elementary School Student Council and Safety Patrol want to say a special THANK YOU to the City of Rocky Top for making their recent field trip both fun and educational.



## Free Tax Return Preparation Rocky Top Public Library

We will start scheduling appointments beginning January 27th.  
To make an appointment you may call the library @ 865-426-6762.

Trained volunteers can help you with special credits, such as Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly for which you may qualify. In addition to FREE tax return preparation assistance, the Rocky Top Public Library site also offers free electronic filing (e-filing).



### Items you need to bring to the VITA Site to have your tax returns prepared:

- Proof of identification • Health Insurance information • Current year's tax package if you received one • Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration • Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return • Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099) • A copy of last year's Federal and State returns if available
- Bank Routing Numbers and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit • Total paid for day care provider and the day care provider's tax identifying number (the provider's Social Security Number or the provider's business Employer Identification Number) • To file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms. • It is extremely important that each person use the correct Social Security Number (SSN). The most accurate information is usually located on your original Social Security card.



## Lake City Elementary School wants to recognize the following students for being on the honor roll for the second nine weeks.

### ALL A'S HONOR ROLL

#### THIRD GRADE:

EMMILY WELLS, SOPHIA MARTIN, ELI LOWERY,  
TABER JERNIGAN, NOT PICTURED: OLIVIA CADDELL



#### FOURTH GRADE:

(BACK ROW) ADDYSON HILL, ELLA CLARK, ALEXA TACKETT,  
CORBYN TAYLOR, OLIVIA WREDE, SOPHIA JOHNSON,  
(FRONT ROW) EASTON COX, MARLEY ELLIOTT, JULIA OWENS,  
JACKSON BROWN, KELSEY BURRIS, JADEN FOSTER,  
NOT PICTURED: HEAVEN PIETROBURGO



#### FIFTH GRADE:

RILEY SAVAGE, AUBRI NEER, EMERIE BULLOCK, RYLAN ELKINS,  
BROOKLYN HOWARD, RAEGAN GREEN, STELLA FARROW,  
NOT PICTURED: HANNAH LEINART



### A-B HONOR ROLL

#### THIRD GRADE:

(BACK ROW) COLTYN NOE, ROSLYN SPENCER, ABBA COLEMAN,  
MALORI WILSON, RACHEL GARBES, JAYDEN HARNES,  
NEVAEH KING, (MIDDLE) LANDON FOUST, JOSH HALL,  
MCKENZIE RIDENOUR, ALIYAH MULL, CHEVY BURRIS,  
COLLYN TAYLOR, CORBIN WILBANKS, LUCAS ALLEN,  
ALEAH WILSON (FRONT) NICOLE RISDEN, BENTLEY SEIBER,  
CHELSEA BARNES, KYLAH DAUGHERTY, CAYSON KNIGHT,  
CARMEN NAVARRO, ANDREW WALL, DEUS SMITH



#### FOURTH GRADE:

(BACK) PRESLI FOX, BENTLY GROSS, OLIVIA HAYES,  
GATLIN MCCOY, MIA JOHNSON, LILY MCCORMICK,  
BROOKLYN BENJAMIN, MARCUS JONES, ALLIE NELSON,  
(MIDDLE) KATELYNN DISNEY, RYLEE BRADEN, BRYSON VOWELL,  
REMY HARRIS, LUKE LEINART, CINDLE JUSTICE, MAKIYA OWENS,  
MICHAEL PIETROBURGO, JAYDIN MARINELLI, SIERRA MITCHELL,  
JAYLYNN RUTHERFORD, TRISTEN WILSON  
(FRONT) VICTORIA SWANSON, EVIE WARWICK, RICKY AMAYA,  
JACOB WEAVER, HAILEY CORNETT, REESE HARRELL,  
HALEY GRAY, ELIZABETH POLLOCK, MARSHALL SHARP  
NOT PICTURED: JACKSON CHESNEY, ELISSA WALKER



#### FIFTH GRADE:

(BACK) PEYTON KITZMILLER, BROOKLYN BRADLEY, JOE MELTON,  
MAKAYLA GRAHAM, WESTON NICHOLS, ELIZABETH BRADEN,  
GARRETT TURNER, (FRONT) CAYDEN TACKETT, JAIDYN PEBLEY,  
RAELYNN LUKE, PEYTON BAKER, NATELIE FLATFORD,  
JOSH WILLIAMS, WILLA BULLOCK, NOT PICTURED: VANSH RAJ,  
SARAH GARBES, ANSLEY WILBANKS



## Fun at Home BUCKET LIST

Finding the fun in whatever life throws our way!

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create a home spa         | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunt for a geocache           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bake cookies              | <input type="checkbox"/> Do <u>science experiments</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Read a book               | <input type="checkbox"/> Walk around the block         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play a <u>board game</u>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Go on a bike ride             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finish a puzzle           | <input type="checkbox"/> Illustrate a book             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do some spring cleaning   | <input type="checkbox"/> Do an online exercise video   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Draw with chalk</u>    | <input type="checkbox"/> Take a virtual field trip     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to a podcast       | <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to an audiobook        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blow bubbles              | <input type="checkbox"/> Make dinner together          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play a yard game          | <input type="checkbox"/> Make paper airplanes          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make a blanket fort       | <input type="checkbox"/> Go on a scavenger hunt        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create an obstacle course | <input type="checkbox"/> Play hide and seek            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Practice yoga             | <input type="checkbox"/> Play tennis                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jump hopscotch            | <input type="checkbox"/> Play cards                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have a dance party        | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoot hoops                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have breakfast for dinner | <input type="checkbox"/> Have a tea party              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write emails to friends   | <input type="checkbox"/> Fly a kite                    |



**Let's encourage each other!**

Remember to share your home adventures on social media  
using the hashtag #rockytophomeadventure2020  
and be sure to follow us on Facebook at  
RockyTopTennessee!





# LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO AS A FAMILY? WHY NOT HAVE A BACKYARDCAMPOUT!

Spending time with your children is important for a healthy development of family bonds. With some proper planning, parents can ensure they provide the kids with an all around fun experience. When it comes to planning a memorable family adventure, nothing can come close to the endless fun that kids have when camping outdoors. Here's a few tips to make your campout extra fun!

## Set up a Tent or build a fort

Supply the kids with a tent to retreat to with items such as books, stuffed animals and games. A deck of cards and a board game will keep the kids entertained! Other items to put in your play tent include a small table and chairs, coloring books and crayons, building blocks and Play-Dough.

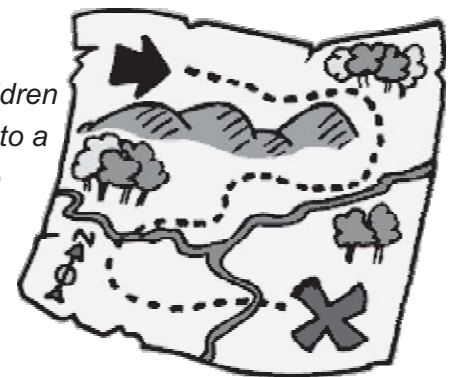


## Explore your yard

There are many interesting and educational things that can be found around the yard. Go on an "exploration" of the area to discover the many different types of insects, plants, flowers and trees in the yard. An age appropriate book on birds, insects, plants or animals will surely excite any tiny explorer. A magnifying glass or binoculars are sure to add an element of fun to your adventure.

## Organize a treasure hunt

It is important to plan ahead for activities such as this one. Create a treasure hunt for the children with clues that will lead them around the yard and to a final payoff. Each clue can be geared to a nature reference, family activity reference (swing set, garage, flowerbed, etc.), or possibly as a treasure map complete with numbered paces, geographical direction and an "X" to mark the spot! You can download treasure maps from the Internet as well.



## Get Active

Arrange some physical playtime to burn off energy with activities such as badminton, volleyball, soccer, Frisbee or touch football. For extremely hot days, consider playing some less strenuous competitions such as beanbag toss or croquet. If there are enough participants, devise a small tournament of players competing for prizes. Hot days are an opportunity to enjoy water balloons or water gun fights. For a no fail, bubbles and water balloons are always a winner with children of all ages.



## Cook Outside

Great chefs know that there is no substitute for cooking over an open flame. Plan the family meal to include items that can be cooked over a fire, such as hot dogs, chili, beans or any other family favorite. After the food has been cleaned off the plates, it is time for the sticky sweetness that only S'mores can bring to a campfire.

## Sing Campfire Songs

An acoustic guitar, harmonica or kazoo can turn any campfire into a small choir of outdoor enthusiasts. Choose familiar songs for the younger children to join in, like "Oh Suzanna" or "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad." Take the opportunity to teach the kids some new songs or engage the family in making up your own catchy tunes.



## Go stargazing

Enjoy the night sky with activities with your children. While the little kids have fun counting the stars and drawing the constellations they see, older kids can identify those constellations by using a star guide. Have the kids draw the shapes they see in the sky and create their own constellations. They can invent some background stories of their creation, which will surely engage conversation. Talk about what they see in the sky such as the moon, airplanes, planets or shooting stars while lying comfortably in your own backyard.



## Tell Campfire Stories

When it is time to settle down and prepare for slumber, engage the family around the fire with some campfire stories. For older kids, these stories can be scary ones told with the addition of the theatrics created with a flashlight shining under your chin. If your kids are younger, you can tell a story in which each person around the campfire adds some content to the fable as you go around the circle. Allow a certain amount of speaking time for each person or number of words that can be added to the circle story for added fun. Encourage children to make up their own stories and tell them to the group.

