

First Camping Trip

One day, on my last summer break, my dad announced that we are going camping with his good friend, Alex, and his daughters, my good friends, Sofia and Anna in Worthington State Forest. What fantastic news!!! I never camped before, that will be my first camping trip ever! Of course, I was also very excited that I would be spending this trip with my friends. Sofia and Anna were already on a couple of camping trips themselves with their dad before, so they already knew a lot and to me they were experts.

My dad and Mr. Alex came up with the list of items we would need for the trip.

1. Tent
2. Sleeping Pads
3. Sleeping bags
4. Camping chairs
5. Flashlights
6. Cooking set
7. Cooler
8. Ice, bugs spray and much more.

It was only two weeks left before our trip, so my dad was busy researching items and buying them. When the tent was delivered to our house, we practiced setting it up in our basement and I was lying there imagining how it would be sleeping in the woods. Will it be scary? Will we get to meet wild animals?

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Finally, the day came. I was happy, excited and a little bit nervous at the same time. It was a new adventure for my dad and me. My mom cooked and packed our cooler with different kinds of food and snacks for us to eat and share with our friends. My dad packed the car, we said our goodbyes to my mom and my little brother, and we were on the road! The ride was long because of the traffic but we still got to the camping space before our friends. We had a snack, looked around and picked the place for our camp. I helped my dad to unpack and set up our tent. It was great teamwork. By the time we were done it was already late evening. Soon Mr. Alex's car showed up in the dark and we greeted them by flashing our lights and showing them the way to their camping spot. After they got all set up it was time for bed. It was a very dark, super quiet night, it felt even a little bit spooky, but as soon as we got into our tent, we immediately fell asleep.

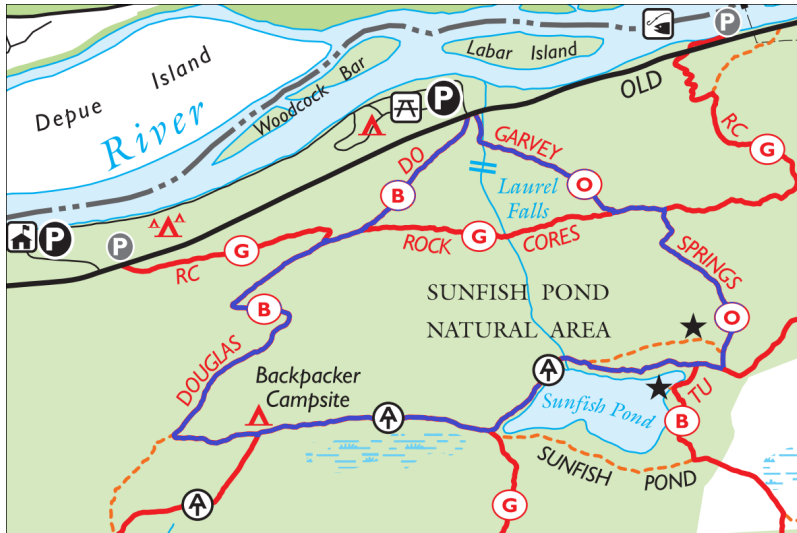
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The next morning I woke up because I heard some strange noises. I looked outside through the tent's window and gasped with amazement. I saw lots of wild turkeys walking by our tent. I woke up my dad. When he saw turkeys around our tent he smiled and said: "Well, you wouldn't see that in the morning living in the city" and grabbed the phone to take pictures.



The day started up to be interesting! The both of us got out of our tent and saw that Mr. Alex, Sofia and Anna already woke up as well. We ate our breakfast and started to get ready for hiking. It was a hot summer day. We packed our backpacks with sandwiches, snacks, lots of water, maps and radios. We came to the hiking trail and looked at the trails map. We took pictures of it so we would always have it with us and would be able to find the way back.

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First leg of the trail, Garvey Springs, was the hardest part, we had to climb up the mountain, but we were up for the challenge and eager to see the views from the top when we would get there. On the way there we learned signs on how to stay on the right trail and tell the directions. They were marked on the trees and stones. It was exciting to look for those and see who would find the next one first. Also, Sofia, Anna and I played hide and sick game using radios. I went ahead, and girls were trying to find me, by me giving them directions on the radio. It was fun and we felt like spies. While playing we saw different wild animals and insects, my dad took pictures of a deer hiding in the bushes and beautiful butterflies. Also we saw few big and small waterfalls.

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It took us over two hours to get to the top of the mountain. When we got there, we saw a big lake, Sunfish Pond. We spent some time there to enjoy the beautiful views, took lots of pictures, had snacks and water break. Now, well rested we moved on to the next part of the hike, which took about two hours walking along the lake on Appalachian Trail. We started to feel tired, but it

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was still a long way back. It was getting harder and challenging, because it was a very hot day and we were tired but after two more hours we managed to get back to our camping place. Hooray! We were exhausted but very proud of ourselves for not giving up, completing such a long hike and were full of happy memories! We took some rest, played some games and set up a campfire. Our dads cook us hot food. Nothing better than sitting next to a campfire, eating food with good friends and cooking marshmallows on the sticks. What an amazing day that was! That night we slept like never before!

Next day we spent in camp, relaxing, playing games and eating. Then, it was time to go home.

Till today I remember our trip in small details and we talk about it from time to time when we get together with Sofia and Anna. Time to plan the next trip!