

Day  Camp



Family Camping Checklist

Everything your crew needs, organized by category.
Print it, check it off, and stop packing by memory.



Printable Guide for
Beginner Family Campers



Your Family's First Camping Adventure Starts Here



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A family camping checklist is a category-by-category packing list covering shelter, sleep, cooking, clothing, safety, and kids' gear, built so nothing gets forgotten in the pre-trip rush. We built this after forgetting a can opener three exits from the campground — true story, never again.

Shelter & Sleep

- ☐ Tent (sized for one more person than your group)
- ☐ Tent footprint or groundsheet
- ☐ Stakes and extra guylines
- ☐ Rubber mallet
- ☐ Sleeping bags rated for the season
- ☐ Sleeping pads or air mattress
- ☐ Pillows (bring them from home)
- ☐ Battery-powered pump (if using an air mattress)

Camping Tip: Size up your tent by one person. A "4-person tent" fits 4 sleeping bags with zero room for gear, which means everything ends up in the car overnight.

Cooking & Food

- ☐ Camping stove + extra fuel
- ☐ Cooler + ice (or ice packs)
- ☐ Pots, pans, cooking utensils
- ☐ Plates, bowls, cups, cutlery (reusable)
- ☐ Can opener
- ☐ Dish soap, sponge, quick-dry towel
- ☐ Trash bags
- ☐ Coffee/tea setup + water bottles

Clothing (Per Person)

- ☐ Layers for warm days, cold nights
- ☐ Rain jacket
- ☐ Extra socks (always pack more than you think)
- ☐ Sturdy closed-toe shoes
- ☐ Hat (sun protection)
- ☐ Pajamas/warm sleep clothes

Kids Corner: Pack one extra full outfit per kid beyond what seems reasonable. Mud, creeks, and s'mores happen, usually all in the same afternoon.

Safety & First Aid

- ☐ First aid kit (family-sized)
- ☐ Sunscreen + insect repellent
- ☐ Flashlights/headlamps + batteries
- ☐ Any family medications
- ☐ Fire extinguisher or water bucket near fire ring

Heads Up: Check campground-specific rules on fires and wildlife (bear boxes, food storage) before you go. Rules vary a lot between state parks, national parks, and private campgrounds.

Kids' Gear & Entertainment

- ☐ Favorite stuffed animal/comfort item
- ☐ Card games or travel games
- ☐ Bikes/scooters (if campground allows)
- ☐ Kid-sized flashlight

Pro Move: Keep a "camping bin" packed year-round with items that never change: first aid kit, stakes, mallet, can opener. You'll only need to pack food, clothes, and sleeping gear fresh each trip.

Want the full guide? Read the complete Family Camping Checklist with tips for every item at day4camp.com/guides/family-camping-checklist/. For ideas to fill the downtime once you're set up, check out day4camp.com/kids/family-camping-activities/.