

Where are we going?

- Top 2 to 3 choices with benefits and drawbacks of each one.
- It might be handy to find a PDF file online of the locations you are considering, especially if you've never visited the area, to help in choosing which location.

Cost

- Identify the costs of staying at each location for the number of nights you are planning to be there.

Will the space available accommodate the number in your party?

- Many campsites have a limit on the number of people who can register for one campsite.

Creating a working budget

- Decide on how much the trip will cost and plan accordingly. Allow an extra amount of money for emergencies.

When are we going?

There are some crucial steps here, so be alert!

- Determine the dates you will be taking your trip.
- Request time off and make certain it has been approved.

Bookings & Reservations

- Reserve your campsite several weeks to 2 months in advance. (This will be a little more important when the summer months roll around, so make sure there will be space available prior to requesting off from work.)
- If you have a map of the area (or PDF from their website), you could also use this time to create a short "ideary" (my little nickname for ideas and itinerary combined). You might include trails on one day, a day of reading and reflection the next, or painting (if you like to paint nature), or just relaxing by the fire with a good book. Of course there is birdwatching, fishing, biking, photography, plant identification, scavenger hunts, etc.

Household Management

- Reschedule any appointments that conflict with the dates you will be away.
- Make a list of all the items you will need.
- Determine what you have on hand and what you will need to purchase.
- Contact your financial institution and advise of travel during the dates you will be out.

Shopping

- Buy only what you will need.
- Buy what you need to take with you for the trip and to get set up.
- Other items that you need might be purchased after you arrive so you will not be carrying so much in the vehicle.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Check your fluids
- Check tires
- Fill up the tank
- Check lights and brakes
- Check spare and jack
- Flashlight, blankets, extra water
- Extra phone charger

Packing

Some, but certainly not all the things you might want to bring:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tent | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooler/ice | <input type="checkbox"/> Foods and drinks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Axe/hammer | <input type="checkbox"/> Matches/lighter | <input type="checkbox"/> Chairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bags | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire-starters | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight/batteries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air mattress/pump | <input type="checkbox"/> Large water jug/container | <input type="checkbox"/> Lantern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boots | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothesline | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeans | <input type="checkbox"/> Utensils | <input type="checkbox"/> Books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shirts (T and long sleeve/flannel) | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash bags/bin | <input type="checkbox"/> Camera |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shorts (seasonal) | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum foil | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jacket | <input type="checkbox"/> Pots/pans | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Pot holders | <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Towels | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking utensils | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimsuit | <input type="checkbox"/> Bowls/cups/cutlery | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper/pens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warm sleepwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Dish towels/cloths | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports gear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries | <input type="checkbox"/> Can opener | <input type="checkbox"/> journal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wet wipes | <input type="checkbox"/> Condiments | |

Before You Leave

- Plan for a house/pet sitter if you are not taking your pet. (If you are planning on taking your pet, contact the park or location you will be visiting to ensure they allow pets and to find out about their pet policy.)
- Mow the lawn and clean it up.
- If you have a paper delivered, call to put a vacation hold or stop on your account.
- Contact the post office to have a hold put on your mail for the time you will be gone.
- Pay any bills that will be due while you are away.
- Adjust thermostat to conserve energy.
- If you will be gone for an extended amount of time, check that food in your refrigerator is not going to expire before you return. If so, give it to a neighbor!
- Ensure your stove is turned off and the coffee maker and all electronic devices are unplugged while you are away.
- If you have a security system installed, set it. If you don't, you might want to invest in a timer that will turn your lights on and off at a certain time to help discourage burglars.
- Make sure all windows and doors are locked.