

Calvert County Great American Campout Daytime Activities

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Shadow Drawing

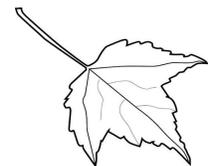
- Materials: small object, paper, pencil or pen, crayons, markers, etc.
- Select a small object from nature or home.
- Position the paper and object in the sun so there's a shadow of the object on the paper.
- Trace the outline of the object.
- Come back in an hour or so, repeatedly, and trace the object again.
- Notice how the size and position of the shadow have moved.
- After you've traced the shadow a few times, decorate your picture to make a souvenir of your camping adventure.

Micro Hike

- Materials: string, optional worksheet
- Imagine being a tiny organism living in their natural habitat where you're camping. You don't need to go on a long hike to explore what's around you. During this activity, your family will investigate a small area of your campsite.
- Use this [microhike lesson](#) from naturepassport.org to guide your family's microhike. You may choose to have each participant traverse a different micro section of the campsite.
- During and after the hike, participants may choose to use this optional [worksheet](#).
- Debrief the microhike with your group by discussing each hiker's findings.
 - What living things did you see? What were they doing?
 - What inanimate items did you encounter?
 - What did you smell?
 - What did you hear?
 - How did you feel, being so tiny in the area of your microhike? Threatened, cozy, adventurous?

Leaves

- Optional supplies: paint, paintbrushes, paper plate, paper
- Leaves do more than just provide shade. In this activity, you'll learn about the functions of leaves, parts of leaves, and collect some leaves from your campsite area to investigate.
- [Click here](#) for instructions.



Camping BINGO

- Materials: BINGO boards printed on cardstock, scissors, glue, small objects to use as BINGO markers, pail, bowl, or hat for the BINGO caller's pieces.
- Before the campout, print the [BINGO boards](#), one per player. Cut apart the squares and glue down on the boards to make a different BINGO board for each player. This could be a great prep project for kids to do before the campout. Be sure to print a spare for the BINGO caller. The caller only needs to have the separate pieces, not glued down on a board.
- To play, give each player a handful of pebbles, coins, or other small objects and a BINGO board. Give the caller a set of BINGO pieces in a pail, bowl, hat, etc to draw from.
- No reading required! If desired, the winner of each round can become the caller for the next round.
- Mix it up by playing postage stamp BINGO (winner needs to have four adjacent squares in any corner) or four corners BINGO (winner needs to have four corners) for a few rounds.



Bird Mask Making

- Materials: card stock, scissors, something to color with (crayons, colored pencils), hole punch, string, staples or tape, optional items to decorate masks, such as feathers, construction paper, sequins, etc.
- Use the [instructions](#) and [templates](#) provided to make a bird mask.
- If you're looking for inspiration, here are pictures of a few [local birds](#) to help your creativity shine.
- Have fun "flying" around the campsite with your family of birds.

Life Size Chutes and Ladders

- Materials: safe paved area (such as a patio, driveway, or sidewalk), sidewalk chalk, optional painter's tape, duct tape, or masking tape, cardboard box (cube shaped works best), strong clear tape, marker
- Make your own life-size Chutes and Ladders Game with items from around your house. Have a blast playing alone or with your family! [Click here](#) for full instructions.

Nature Collage and Pressed Dried Flowers

- Materials: natural items from your campsite: leaves, flower petals, gumballs, pinecones, etc., glue, cardboard (try finding a clean, empty box in your family's recycling bin to reuse as the base of your collage.)
- If you have a few days to plan ahead, collect flowers in advance. Place them gently between two pieces of paper and stack a few heavy books or heavy cookware on top. They'll dry nicely and be flat - great for making greeting cards and art projects to share with friends and family!
- Have fun gluing the items to a piece of cardboard to make a collage showcasing your natural surroundings.

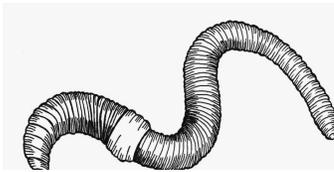


Rock Art

- Materials: rocks, paint, paintbrushes, optional rubber stamps and stamp pads, permanent markers, paint markers
- Painting rocks can be an enjoyable activity to relax, be creative, and spend time with your friends and family.
- Brush any little bits of dirt off your rocks prior to painting.
- Have fun painting rocks for decorations, surprises in your family's garden, or taking care of as low-maintenance pets. [Click here](#) for some ideas to spur your creativity.

Earthworm Odyssey

- Materials: several earthworms, a box with lid (such as a shoebox), paper towels, water, ruler, grid paper
 - Earthworms are nature's soil helpers. They help increase the amount of air and water that gets into soil. By breaking down organic matter, such as leaves and grass, into things plants can use, they create natural fertilizer. Their castings enrich soil for plants.
 - Choose a few [Earthworm Odyssey](#) activities to learn more about their bodies and behavior.
- Remember to put the earthworms where you found them in their natural habitat when you're finished.



Sand Candles

- Materials: Large coffee can, pot that coffee can can fit inside, water, wax (paraffin, recycled candles or crayon), wooden spoon or stick, heat source (camp stove or house stove), wicking, spray bottle filled with water, hot pad/oven mitt, dish pan to hold sand, sand, shells
- Create a lasting memento of your family's adventure by making a candle. Try finding small pebbles or shells in your camping area to put in the candle. [Click here](#) for full instructions.

Insect Olympics

- Materials: tape measure, scale, three sticks of differing lengths, at least 75 large paper clips
- Challenge your family to see who can jump like a flea, run as fast as a tiger beetle, and more in each event of the [Insect Olympics](#).

Sun Art Prints

- Materials: cotton fabric, acrylic paint, sponge brush, spray bottle of water, fresh cut leaves, optional tarp or drop cloth to protect your work area
- [This project](#) gives you a chance to use leaves and the sun along with paint to print on fabric. Here's a [video](#) of the activity.
- You'll need at least three hours on a hot, sunny day for the print to dry, so plan ahead.

