

# Camping 101

## Things to Consider:

- **How much time do you have?**
  - 1 day
  - Weekend
  - Week
  - Longer
- **Location**
  - Regional Park
  - State Park
  - State Forest
  - National Park
- **Costs**
  - State Park Sticker (daily or yearly pass)
  - Campsite
  - Rental equipment (tents, sleeping bags, etc.)
- **Camping Skill Level**
  - *Novice* -Regional or State Parks
  - *Intermediate* - State or State Forest
  - *Expert* - National Parks

## Equipment/Gear to bring (essentials):

- Tent or Camper
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad/Air Mattress
- Pillow
- Camp Stove
- Matches/Lighter
- Food
- Plates, bowls, utensils
- Flashlight, extra batteries
- Shoes
  - For around camp
  - For hiking
- Clothes
  - Shirts-Wicking
  - Hiking pants /zip off
  - Hat
  - Rain Gear
- Compass
- Camera
- Toiletries
- Ibuprofen
- Bug spray
- Sunscreen
- Water bottles
- GPS for geocaching (opt.)
- Outdoor games for kids

**Leave at home:** TV, electronics

**Note:** If you are a member of Rovers you can borrow equipment (tents, backpacks, stoves, etc) if you are going on a Rovers trip. REI has sleeping bags, tents, stoves, paddling equipment and more that can be rented.

## State Parks (only some are listed):

### Southern MN

- Minneopa (Mankato)
- Whitewater (Rochester)
- Nerstrand (Northfield)
- Frontenac (Red Wing)

### Central MN

- Afton
- William O'brien
- Wild River
- St. Croix

### Northern MN

- Jay Cooke (Duluth)
- Gooseberry Falls
- Tettegouche
- Temperance River

### Other MN Parks

- Lake Carlos
- Lake Bemidji
- Schoolcraft
- Banning

## Suggested things to do:

- Hiking
  - There are thousands of miles of trails available in all the Regional and State Parks, along with the State and National Forests.
- Paddling
  - Many Regional and some State Parks have canoes and/or kayaks that can be rented.
- Programs
  - Check out the programs for the day at the park where you are camping. These are great learning opportunities for kids and adults.
- Geocaching
  - Most State parks have GPS units that you can check out, along with caches (hidden treasures) to locate.
- Swimming
  - Many parks have swimming beaches, but check the particular website first.

## MN Rovers Favorite Reference Sites:

<http://www.exploreminnesota.com/home.aspx>

<http://www.midwestweekends.com/>

<http://www.threeriversparkdistrict.org/>

<http://www.anokacountyparks.com/>

[http://www.anokacountyparks.com/parks/bunker\\_hills\\_regional\\_park/about.html](http://www.anokacountyparks.com/parks/bunker_hills_regional_park/about.html)

[http://www.anokacountyparks.com/parks/rice\\_creek\\_chain\\_of\\_lakes/about.html](http://www.anokacountyparks.com/parks/rice_creek_chain_of_lakes/about.html)

[http://www.co.washington.mn.us/info\\_for\\_residents/parks\\_division/parks\\_and\\_trails/st\\_croix\\_bluffs\\_regional\\_park/](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/info_for_residents/parks_division/parks_and_trails/st_croix_bluffs_regional_park/)

<http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/LeisureRecreation/CountyParks/Locations/LebanonHills/default.htm>

<http://www.co.carver.mn.us/departments/PW/parks/baylor.asp>

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/index.html)

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_forests/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_forests/index.html)

<http://home.nps.gov/applications/parksearch/state.cfm?st=MN>

<http://www.stayatmnparks.com>

[www.mnrovers.org](http://www.mnrovers.org)

[www.REI.com](http://www.REI.com)

[www.mnrovers.org](http://www.mnrovers.org) – *We play outdoors!*