



Outdoor Activities for Grandma Camp

Easy, Fun Outdoor Activities
That Kids Will Love!



Outdoor Activities for Grandma Camp

Special Note:

There are suggestions in here for how to play, how to set something up, where to buy a specific item, and so on. To make things easy for you, we've included all the links to everything you need. We hope this makes your life a bit easier.

Affiliate Disclosure:

This eBook may contain affiliate links. If you decide to click on something I recommend and buy it, I may get a small commission. But...here's the best part...you get something you want but won't pay anything extra!! Win-win for both of us!

And, just for the record...I only recommend stuff I really love and would tell my own family about.

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Group Games

For Large Groups of Kids



Group Games

Outdoor Games That are Great for Large Groups of Kids

Parachute Games

[*Click to see the large parachutes for the following games.](#)

- **Sharks & Lifeguards** – Choose a couple of children to be “sharks” and a couple more to be “lifeguards.” (This will depend on the size of your group. You may need more or fewer sharks and lifeguards. The rest of the children will sit on the ground with their legs under the parachute while holding the handles of the parachute.

To play the game, the “sharks” will be completely under the parachute and the “lifeguards” will walk around the outside of the circle. The object of the “sharks” is to grab the children’s legs and pull them under the parachute and the “lifeguards” try to save the children by saving them from being pulled under the parachute. The “lifeguards” pull the children out and up. When a child get pulled completely under the parachute, they become a shark. If they get pulled out and up outside the parachute, they become “lifeguards.”

***WARNING: Please make sure that the children are pulled gently so that their limbs are not pulled too hard and they don’t hit their heads!*

- **Popcorn** – Using 2 different colors of small, soft balls, and use an equal number of each. Divide the children into 2 teams and assign them to one of the ball colors. One team is trying to shake off the other team’s balls, and the other team is doing the same with their opponents’ balls.
- **Parachute Tag** – Have all the children hold the parachute as high over their heads as possible. The caller calls two of the children’s names and those children must run under the parachute and switch places. If the parachute comes down on one of the children, then that child becomes the caller.
- For More Parachute Games:
 - <https://www.performancehealth.com/articles/7-fun-parachute-games-for-all-ages-toddlers-to-seniors>
 - <https://kidactivities.net/games-parachute/>

Games of Tag

- **Freeze Tag** – This is probably the most common type of Tag. Players get tagged by the player who is “It” and become frozen in place. They can be unfrozen by players who have not yet been tagged. The goal is for “It” to freeze all players.
- **Flashlight Tag** – In this version of tag, players hide while the person who is the seeker counts to a predetermined number. When the seeker finds a player, that hider is “tagged” with the seekers’ flashlight beam. The object is to find and tag all the hiders. [Flashlights](#)

Games of Tag (cont.)

- **Squirt Gun Tag** – Played like other regular games of tag, but players are tagged with water from a squirt gun.
 - **Flag Tag** – This version has hallmarks of flag football in the respect that each player needs to have a “flag” (could be a piece of fabric, a bandana, a sock, etc.) to tuck into the side of their waistband. The object is for the person who is “It” collects all the flags.
 - **Snake Tag** – This type of tag involves players being collected by the initial tagger. As players are tagged, they join hands and create a long “snake.” The goal is to get everyone into the line.
 - **Sharks & Minnows** – All the players stand in a circle with the “Shark” (the tagger) standing in the middle of the circle. The tagger calls out 2 of the “Minnows” (the players) in the circle and asks them to “cross the ocean” (the circle). The players then need to run across the circle while the Shark tries to tag them. When someone is tagged, that person becomes the Shark.
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Other Group Games

- **Scatterball** – We discovered this game a few years ago. It’s a new take on the classic dodgeball game. There are six sets of three wristbands in different colors for six-player action. Players use a six-sided foam Scatterball. The ball is tossed in the middle to reveal a color matching one of the players' wristbands, making that person the thrower. The thrower grabs the ball and attempts to hit people with it to gain their wristbands, while the other players attempt to dodge or catch the ball to gain the thrower's wristbands. Full instructions come with the Scatterball game. [Find the link to the game here.](#)
- **Capture the Flag** – The kids beg to play this game. [There are other versions](#) than the one you remember. They love the competition and the strategy. Most people know how to play this game. However, if you need a tutorial, here’s a good one for you – [How to Play Capture the Flag](#)
- **Nine Square** – If you haven’t heard of Nine Square, you’re missing out. It’s become one of the very favorite activities for the older kids (although, the younger ones can play too but it’s a bit more challenging for them). One of the biggest drawbacks of this game is the set up and storage of the 9-Square grid. However, if you have access to a grid, it’s a crowd pleaser for sure. Check out [how to DIY a grid of your own & rules for the game.](#)
- **Kick the Can** – This has long been a Night Games favorite since I was a kid. If you need to understand how to play, [here’s a short video](#) on a basic version of the game.
- **Drip, Drip, Drench** – This game is like Duck, Duck, Goose. The only difference is that instead of patting each child on the head, the runner uses a wet sponge and drops a single drip on each person’s head until the one that he wants to have chase him. When he gets to that person, he squeezes all the water out of the sponge and the chase begins. I think you get the idea.
- **Sidewalk Chalk Art Show** – Simply have the kids draw works of art with sidewalk chalk and show off their creations. If you want, you can judge the drawings and make it a bit of a competition. [Find our favorite sidewalk chalk here.](#)



Scavenger Hunts

Scavenger Hunt Ideas for Any Size Group



Scavenger Hunts

Scavenger Hunt Ideas for Any Size Group

Below is a list of types of scavenger hunts that you can create for your kiddos. On the next page, we have some blank templates so you can make and customize your own.

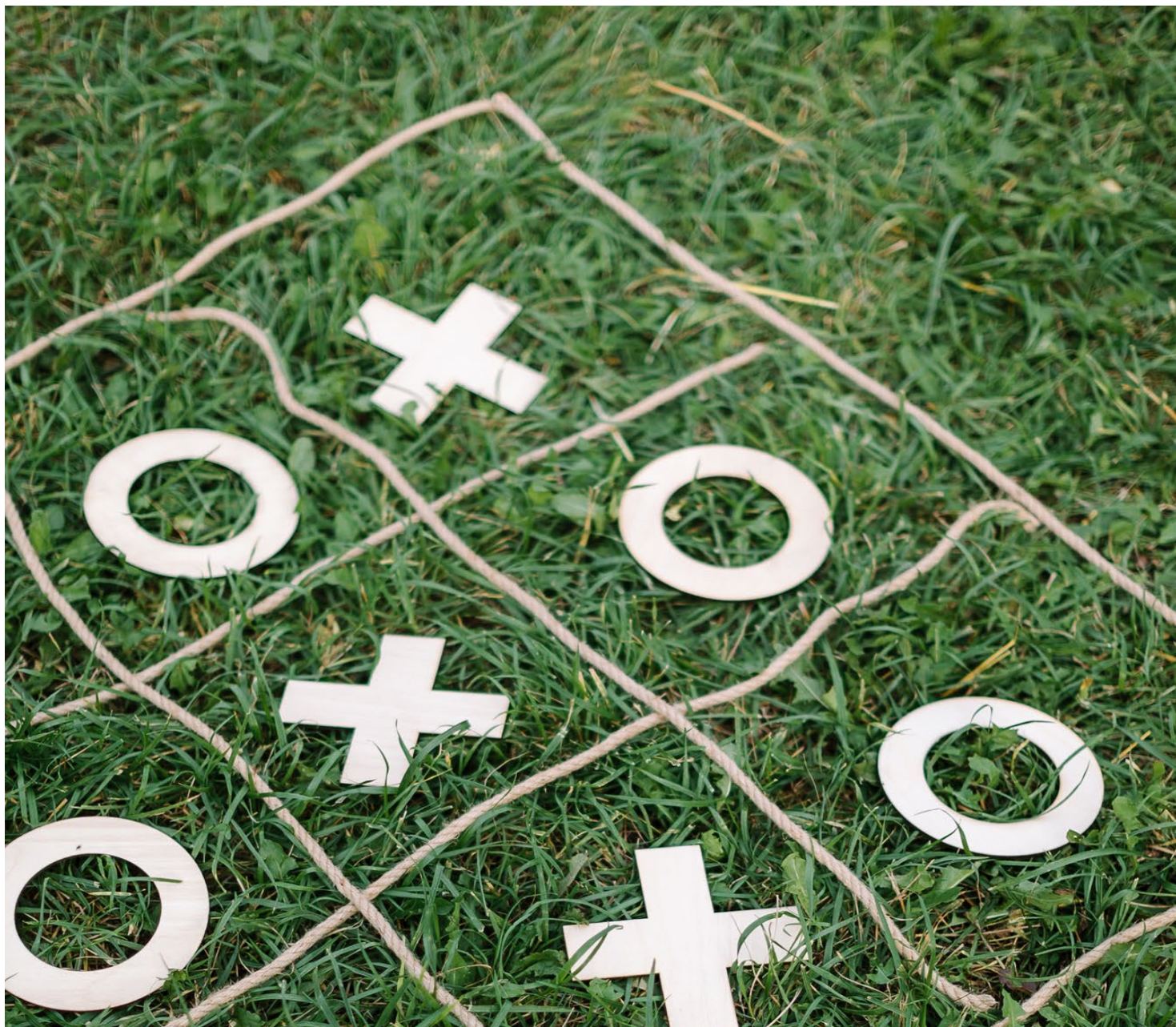
- **Seasonal Hunt** – Have the kiddos find things pertaining to a specific season.
- **Nature Hunt** – Use objects found in nature.
- **ABC Hunt** – Have the kids find things from every letter of the alphabet.
- **Colors Hunt** – Put colors on the front of a paper bag. Have the kids find things to put in the bag from each color on the front.
- **Textures Hunt** – Find things that have different textures – smooth, bumpy, rough, etc.
- **Insects Hunt** – Kids can use magnifying glasses to inspect even the smallest of insects. Have them identify specific ones that they find.
- **5 Senses Hunt** – Find things that represent the 5 senses – touch, sight, hear, taste, and smell.
- **Movement Hunt** – Have the kids do movements while finding things on their list. Such as have them find something they can jump over, something that they can throw, etc.
- **Shapes Hunt** – Finding shapes in nature is not only fun but can be educational. Have the kiddos find things that represent different shapes.
- **Flashlight Hunt** – Have a scavenger hunt at night! Equip the kids with flashlights and give them things to find in the dark.
- **Things with Wheels Hunt** – Find all kinds of different things that move – bicycles, cars, waterwheel (a small one in a fairy garden will do), trash can, skateboard, etc.
- **Photo Hunt** – Give the kids a camera (or a phone with one) and give them items to take pictures of.
- **Constellations Hunt** – Lay on your back on a clear summer evening and identify constellations. Use an online app like the free version of SkyView to help you.
- **Glow in the Dark Hunt** – Get a glow in the dark puzzle and hide the pieces throughout the yard. Have the kids find the pieces and put the puzzle together. Or you could create a secret code written with glow in the dark ink. Have the kids find the pieces and solve the code.
- **Things I Love Hunt** – Have the kids write down some of their favorite things and mark them off the list as they find them.
- **Rhyming Hunt** – Use pairs of rhyming words for kids to find – bee and tree, ant and plant, hose and rose, etc.
- **Drawing Hunt** – Give the kids words of things to find and have them draw that thing in the square of that word.

Scavenger Hunt

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Scavenger Hunt

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Yard Games

Supersized Fun Classic Games



Yard Games

Large versions of classic well-loved games

Tower Blocks (a.k.a. Jenga) – Use these giant blocks to build a giant tower! This game is like Jenga where you take turns pulling blocks out while trying to keep the tower standing. There are a few ways to create this game. You can cut wooden blocks from 2x4s as explained in this [article from GirlJustDIY.com](#). Or you can use plastic or foam blocks. Or, you can purchase a giant block set from somewhere like Walmart or Amazon.

Giant 4-in-a-Row (a.k.a. Connect 4) – This is a classic game usually played on a tabletop. But... increase the size and voila! You have an outside game that is a novelty for kids to play over and over. This game works well when you are having a competition, tournament-like play, or just a fun activity for outside.

Tic-Tac-Toe – Everyone knows how to play Tic-Tac-Toe. However, have you ever played it on the lawn? Either spray paint a board or use rope, PVC piping, or twine to make your board.

Use anything you want for markers. You can create Xs and Os out of thin wood or posterboard. You can use two different colors of sponges. You can even just use spray-painted rocks to differentiate the two teams' markers.

If you want to make it a bit more challenging, use frisbees and have the players try to throw their disc into the square they want to occupy.

Twist it Up (a.k.a Twister) – This is another game that you can spray paint onto the lawn. Simply paint 5 circles of each color to create a large board. Then use the spinner from the actual game or make one of your own. The spinner could even be pieces of paper that are drawn out of two bowls – one for color and the other for hand/foot designation.



Another version of this game that is great for hot, sunny days is **Twister Spalsh!** The Twister mat is hooked up to a hose and each time you put your hand or foot on a spot, it sprays water from one of the other spots. It hilarious, good, clean fun for everyone!

YardZee (a.k.a. Yahtzee or RollZee) – Another really fun thing to do is to play dice games with supersized dice. You can either use large foam dice (which tend to be anywhere from 3' – 6") or go really big and use inflatable dice! Either way, get a Yahtzee-type scoring card and let everyone have fun rolling dice all over the yard to score "big" in the game.



Outdoor Sport Games

Outdoor Sports to Use for Games and Competition



Outdoor Sport Games

For kids who like sports. . .and even for those who don't

- [Ladderball](#) - Ladderball is a game that is played with a "ladder" that has 3 rungs and the bolas (2 small balls linked together with a rope). Each rung is worth points and players take turns throwing their bolas at the ladder to score.

This game is easy to adapt for younger and older ages. We always have the younger ones stand closer to the ladder, and we have the older ones stand further away. This game is very portable and can be [built with PVC piping](#) or by [purchasing a game set](#).

- [SpikeBall](#) - If volleyball and four square had a baby. . .you'd come up with Spikeball. One player throws the ball down onto the net. The other team has 3 chances to return the ball to the net (think volleyball). The first team that misses, gives the other team points.

Spikeball is another portable game. It can be easily set up and stored. This is a great game for getting some exercise or having a full-on competition. [There are lots of different types of sets - simple to pro-style.](#)

- [Cornhole](#) - This game has really grown in popularity over the past few years. You will see it at numerous picnics and family reunions. We have discovered that Cornhole is great for all ages of kiddos. The rules are easy to learn as it's as simple as throwing a beanbag into a hole on the opposite board.

While you can build your own boards - [HGTV has some instructions here](#) - unless you're very handy at woodworking, it may be a bit challenging. However, if you are going to buy a Cornhole set, I highly [recommend purchasing solid wood boards](#). This makes the game heavy and maybe not as portable, but these boards just don't last unless they are sturdy. We still lug our heavy boards to parks and parties.

- [Badminton](#) - Badminton has been around ever since I can remember. It's easy to play but may be a bit tougher for smaller kiddos as the net is kind of high. There are a couple of different types of set ups. We like [the one that doesn't use the side poles](#) because the net fell over more often when it was hit.
- [Water Balloon Volleyball](#) - There are a few different ways to play water balloon volleyball. You need water balloons and bath or beach towels. You can play with or without a net. We like to mark out some boundary lines and just lob water balloons back and forth. Two people share a towel, and each holding one end of the towel, work together to catch and throw the water balloons. We don't take this very serious, but it always turns out to be lots of wet fun!
- [More Familiar Sports](#) - You can always play some of the more familiar sports like dodgeball, soccer, baseball, and football. There are a lot of variations on these games that you can find online.



Food Competitions

Play with Your Food!



Food Competitions

Let's Play With Our Food

- **Building Challenge** – Just like building gingerbread houses, use graham crackers and frosting to build other types of buildings – cabins, castles, tents, etc. Set up tables outside so that the kids can spend their time building and not worrying about making a mess.
- **Eating Contests** – Good old-fashioned eating contests are always a big hit – watermelon, pie, hot dogs, corn on the cob, etc. Choose something fun and encourage sportsmanship by having the kids chant and cheer one another on.
- **Tallest Towers** – Using uncooked spaghetti noodles and marshmallows, have teams compete building the tallest tower they can in a specific amount of time. Allow the teams to rebuild if their tower falls. Just judge the tallest tower when time is up.
- **Chopstick Challenge** – Choose 5-10 things that need to be picked up with a chopstick. Have teams relay running up to the table, picking up the chopsticks and moving the item from one place to another.

For example, the first racer on each team runs up to the table and picks up a peanut with their chopsticks. They have to carry the peanut across the yard to a bowl on another table. When they successfully do that, they hand off the chopsticks to the next person in line.

- **Donuts on a String** – This challenge is very popular at Halloween; however, it really works any time of year.

In case you're not familiar with how this works, just hang donuts on individual strings and tie the other end to a tree or suspended stick. Have contestants eat the donuts while holding their hands behind their backs. First one done, wins!





Minute To Win It Games

Easy, Short Competition Games for Kids

Minute-to-Win-it Games

Short Competition Games for Kids!

Minute-to-Win-it types of competition and games are great for small challenges for kids and adults alike. Some of these challenges are more suited to kids. Below are some of our picks for easy and fun for all ages. Most of these challenges can be done with [a ready-to-use kit](#).

- **Balloon Blow Up** – All you need for this challenge are a couple of balloons and contestants with lots of hot air. Blow up a balloon and the contestant needs to keep the balloon up in the air for 60 seconds by blowing on the balloon. If it touches the ground, the challenge is over.
- **Cookie Monster** – This challenge is to place a cookie on your forehead and see if you can move the cookie down to your mouth by just wiggling your face and not using your hands. How many cookies can you do in one minute?
- **Nosey Rolly** – Using a round-ish vegetable (like a potato), roll it across the floor with your nose. Can you do it faster than your opponent and in less than one minute?
- **Junk in the Trunk** – Most people are familiar with this challenge. Strap an empty tissue box (large box) to your backside. Have someone put 6 ping pong balls into the box. The object is to shake all 6 balls out of the box in 60 seconds.
- **Ping Pong Toss** – Speaking of ping pong balls, this challenge require you to blow a ping pong ball across cups filled with water. Line up several plastic cups filled to nearly the top with water in a long row. Place the ball on the water of the first cup. The contestant needs to blow the ping pong ball from cup to the other down to the end of the row. Blow as many ping pong balls across the row of cups as you can in one minute.

As an alternate: Don't fill the cups with water. Just leave them empty. Have contestants bounce the ping pong balls into the cups instead.

- **Marshmallow Toss** – Contestants partner up for this one. Both partners stand about 4' apart. One person tries to toss a marshmallow into the cup their partner is holding. Whoever can get the most marshmallows in their partners' cup in one minute, wins!
- **5 Apples Up on Top** – Have you read the Dr. Suess book, 10 Apples Up on Top? Well, this is only half of that. Contestants try to balance as many apples on top of their head as possible. We think that 5 is about the limit. However, if you think you can do more...go for it! You have 60 seconds to get the job done.
- **Gone Fishin'** – This one is easy to describe. Simply pick up Goldfish crackers by sucking them up to the bottom of a straw and put them into a cup. The winner is whoever can do the most in one minute.
- **The Great Puzzle Race** – The object of this challenge is to be the first to put together a simple puzzle in under a minute.
- **Cotton Ball Scoop** – Blindfolded contestants try to scoop up cotton balls with a spoon and put them in a bowl. The contestant with the most in the bowl at the end of the minute is the winner.

Thank You!

We appreciate you and would love to hear your feedback. Please email us at the address below and let us know what you think.



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