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January/February 2021

# COOLtears™

and tiny campers  
MAGAZINE



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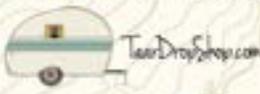
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# COOLtears™ and tiny campers MAGAZINE

Vol. 9 No. 1 January/February 2021

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# Letter from the Editor:



Tiny Camper Enthusiasts,

It is an absolute pleasure to welcome you to Cool Tears and Tiny Campers Magazine as we begin our ninth year of publication. I'm proud to say that we wrapped up year 8 with only a few hiccups after becoming the new editor/publisher.

Every new year brings a time of reflection - of what we've accomplished, what our new goals will be and what we're grateful for. We are most thankful for the support of you, our readers.

You are the reason we are able to do what we do and you are helping to further the tiny camper community. Because of you, we can produce meaningful content about teardrops, square drops and other tiny campers. Because of you, we can highlight great home build campers and help provide guidance to new and seasoned campers. Because of you, we are trying more and more recipes that can be easily made while camping and will turn any of you into gourmet chefs using your tiny, kitchen on wheels. Because of you, we had an amazing 2021 wall calendar to share with people who love tiny campers. Because of you, we can share great camping trips from you, our readers!

Here are a few examples of how you've helped us make a difference for Cool Tears and Tiny Campers Magazine.

- We have gained nearly 2000 subscribers since our first issue was published in July 2020 and we gain more each week. Keep spreading the word!
- We have grown the Facebook page to nearly 9000 followers.
- Most issues have an article written by a reader - and they are always welcome!
- We had over 100 photos submitted for our first annual photo contest.

So what's on tap for 2021 and beyond?

- We want to highlight at least one home build in each issue going forward. So document your build along the way with notes and photos and contact us at [Anne@cooltears.com](mailto:Anne@cooltears.com).
- We want to bring you amazing and easy to prepare recipes
- We want to prove that you don't need a big RV to have a great camping experience. It's possible to "Live tiny - Live free"

Lastly, thank you all for interacting with us and for reading our magazine about the tiny campers that we all love. If you have any article ideas, products you'd like to see reviewed, information on gatherings, etc., please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Safe travels and stay safe

Live Tiny. Live Free.

Lisa Adams

Editor

Cool Tears Magazine™

[Lisa@cooltears.com](mailto:Lisa@cooltears.com)



# KITCHEN ON WHEELS

# DUTCH OVENS

I'm willing to bet that some of you received a Dutch oven as a gift this holiday season. If so congratulations! You are in for a treat. Nothing beats slicing into a freshly baked loaf of bread that you've just taken off the fire. This article will give you some of the basics of your Dutch oven and also a few recipes that you can practice so you can "WOW" your camping friends.

## CARING FOR YOUR DUTCH OVEN: SEASONING

First, let's go over a few basics. Cast iron Dutch ovens must be seasoned before they can be used. If you received an aluminum Dutch oven, it does not require seasoning. Seasoning is heated oil that is bonded to the metal through a process called polymerization. This will prevent your Dutch oven from rusting and it forms a non-stick cooking surface.

Although using vegetable oil is preferred, other oils can be used. Whichever oil you choose, you will need to find that oil's smoke point. A chemical reaction occurs at that smoke point, so the oil will bond to your pan. You can reference [this article](#) to determine the smoke point of the oil you'd like to use. The article will also tell you if that oil has a neutral flavor or not.

To season a new Dutch oven (or any cast iron), scrub the pan with warm, soapy water. Since you are seasoning the pan for the first time, it is ok to use soap. Rinse and dry thoroughly. Secondly, apply a very thin layer of the oil of your choice, inside and out. Lastly, place your Dutch oven upside down in the oven, with either a large baking sheet or foil on the bottom of the oven for easy clean up. Bake at 450° - 500°F (230° - 260°C) for one hour. If you are using an oil with a lower

or higher smoke point, adjust the baking temperature. Allow your Dutch oven to cool and that's it! You've now seasoned your cookware. Note: You can do this on an outdoor grill if you can accurately measure the temperature. This may be preferred because there will be smoke. If you do this in your kitchen, be sure to crack some windows and keep your kitchen exhaust fan on during this process.

## CARING FOR YOUR DUTCH OVEN: WASHING

To clean your Dutch oven, you can use a small amount of soap, per Lodge Cast Iron. If needed, use a pan scraper to remove any stuck food. If you're at the campground, add a few inches of water to the pot and place back on the fire until the water boils. Once it's cool enough to handle, scrape out any food residue. Dry your Dutch oven promptly with either a paper towel or a lint free towel. It's normal to notice a little bit of black residue on your towel. Because of this, we usually use paper towels to dry cast iron. Lastly, rub a very thin layer of cooking oil over the surface of your Dutch oven and wipe the excess with a paper towel so no oil residue remains. This last step helps in keeping the pan seasoned and in preventing it from rusting.



## BAKING IN YOUR DUTCH OVEN

When baking in a Dutch oven over a fire, we recommend to rotate your Dutch oven a quarter turn every 15 minutes to maintain an even temperature and to help eliminate hot spots. If you have coals on the lid, rotate the lid as well, but in the opposite direction. It is also recommended to have more heat on the lid than under the Dutch oven for baking. For example, if you want to make the bread recipe below (in a 10 inch pan) using coals from the fire, you would need roughly 19 briquettes or the equivalent size wood embers on the lid and about 10 briquettes under the Dutch oven in order to bake at roughly 450°F (230°C). Below are a few simple recipes that you can try at home or at the campsite.

### DUTCH OVEN BREAD

Here is a simple bread recipe to try. You can make this indoors in your oven or outside on the fire. [Here is a link to a quick YouTube video demonstrating how easy this recipe is to make.](#)

#### INGREDIENTS

3 cups flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon yeast  
1.5 cups warm water

Mix the dry ingredients first and then add the water and mix thoroughly. You can mix this completely with your hands which makes it an easy campground recipe. Let rise overnight. Preheat the oven to 450°F (230°C) and bake for 30 minutes covered and 10 minutes uncovered. Remove the bread from the Dutch oven, cover with a towel and let cool for about 10 minutes before slicing.

### DUTCH OVEN DUMP CAKE

If your looking for a go-to dessert to make fresh while camping, this should help fit the bill. It includes a few easy to pack ingredients and it's fantastic.

#### INGREDIENTS

1 package of yellow cake mix  
1 can cherry pie filling  
1 can crushed pineapple  
2 tablespoons butter

For easier cleanup, line the Dutch oven with baking paper as neatly as possible. Dump the cans of fruit into the Dutch oven. Dump the cake mix on top. Dot with pieces of butter. Place your Dutch oven on about 7 or 8 briquettes or the equivalent sized wood embers in the campfire. Put the lid on your Dutch oven and place about 14 briquettes or equivalent on top. This will roughly equate to a 350°F (175°C) temperature. Bake for roughly 40 minutes, checking after the first 30 minutes. Cool slightly before serving.

You can substitute any fruit of your choice in this recipe. This basic recipe allows for endless variations and [this link will help guide you to some other fantastic recipes.](#) If fresh fruit is in season, I recommend experimenting with fresh fruit. Fresh, juicy peaches are amazing in this recipe instead of canned peaches. We like to forage for berries while on hikes. These make for a great topping on the cake as well.

**Enjoy! ■**



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# 2021 CALENDAR WINNERS



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By **Lisa Adams**

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**T**hank you to all of the people who submitted photos for our first annual calendar contest. There were so many amazing pictures submitted that it was extremely difficult to select the winners. Over the next several issues, we will run some of the other photos that were submitted by you, our readers. Here are your winning photos.

There are still calendars available for purchase. [Click this link to purchase your calendar before they're all gone!](#)

*Cover photo by Colleen Olsen*



*Top: January photo submitted by  
Kim Miller*



*Middle: February photo submitted  
by Sam Van Fleet*



*Bottom: March photo submitted by  
Darrell Simpson*

**CALENDAR WINNERS**



*Top: April photo submitted by  
Don Simpson*



*Middle: May photo submitted by  
Stephen Meyer*



*Bottom: June photo submitted by  
Colin Hughes*



*Top: July photo submitted by  
Jeff Kubiak*



*Middle: August photo submitted by  
Michael Camann*



*Bottom: September photo  
submitted by Cory St Cyr*

**CALENDAR WINNERS**



*Top: October photo submitted by Kevin and Gwen Williams*



*Middle: November photo submitted by Barry Klassen*



*Bottom: December photo submitted by Tim and Deb Foley*

*Back cover photo (on next page) submitted by Cory St Cyr*



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# HOMEBUILT CAMPER: KITS

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By **Lisa Adams**

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**I**f you are looking at this magazine, but do not own a tiny camper yet, then chances are high that you have dreamt of having your own teardrop or squaredrop camping trailer. There is nothing like driving down the road with a tiny camping trailer to an amazing destination like something you might see in an Instagram story. If you don't already have your teardrop or squaredrop and it's not on order with a manufacturer already, then your chances of having that feeling in the summer of 2021 are fading fast as many of the teardrop trailer manufacturers have lead times pushing one year. There is another way though to live this dream - you could build your own.



Building your own teardrop or squaredrop camper can be a rewarding experience for those that choose to tackle this project. It can be a daunting task however if you don't already have some basic mechanical skills and the right tools. How do you know if building using

a kit is right for you? These are a few questions that may help you come up with an answer that is right for you.

- Do you have all of the necessary tools or would you need to purchase some?
- Do you have experience with cutting/shaping wood, electrical systems (if you want power), plumbing (if you want running water), and welding?
- Do you have the space to build a complete teardrop?
- Do you have the time, energy, desire, and knowledge to design your own teardrop?

Fortunately, there are several companies that are making kits so it is easier to build your own teardrop camper from scratch. The products that these companies cover vary from just the blueprints all the way to everything cut and delivered to your door, so it is best for you to do your own research on which may suit you best.

We'll list them in alphabetical order.

### ***Big Woody Teardrop Campers***

If you have the time, some basic woodworking skills, and an empty garage or pole barn where you can build your own teardrop camper, you'll find that these teardrop plans are the most comprehensive available. One of the great things about Big Woody Teardrop Campers is that they are also a custom teardrop manufacturer so you have the advantage of knowing that they really know what they're doing. This is great because there are so many different plans for sale on the internet and it's often difficult to tell if they have actually ever built one teardrop or not. Another advantage of buying a kit from a teardrop manufacturer is that you can actually see what your teardrop might look like when it's completed. Their website has a photo gallery so you can see many of the features that you can add or modify to your teardrop.

At Big Woody's you can purchase a set of plans if you have the necessary tools to handle large sheets of plywood or you can purchase a kit that includes the following already pre-cut for only \$550 USD: 2 sides, 2 doors with window cutouts, 2 curved exterior trims, 2 lower exterior trims, 1 rear bulkhead, 1 galley counter and cabin lower shelf. They have other kits available for help with electrical, hardware, weatherstripping, etc.

Be sure to check out their website for more details. They also offer FREE technical support via email or phone for people that purchase their kits. If you run into any issues during your build, they are there to support you, which is such a bonus.

Big Woody's has been a long time advertiser in our magazine, so please be sure to check out their website which is hyperlinked inside the front cover of this issue.

**CLC Teardrop Kits - available in North America, the UK, EU, Australia and New Zealand**

Would you think to contact a company that builds boat kits for a teardrop? If not, you should. CLC Boats began working on this concept in 2014 and had built their first camper from a kit in November 2015. This kit was designed to fit on about anything that has wheels, a boat trailer, flatbed trailer, etc. The basic Harbor Freight flatbed that is around \$200 even works (although many would say to beef it up with some welds too.) If needed, you can purchase a trailer directly from CLC as well.

If you have ever built a stitch and glue kayak or small boat, then this construction method will be familiar to you. The marine plywood panels are bent into a mold (provided in the kit), then the seams are reinforced with epoxy and fiberglass tape. Lastly, the teardrop shell is flipped over, more fiberglass, and loads of sanding.

CLC offers several different kits ranging from just the wood parts only (where you supply your own epoxy and hardware) up to their base kit which includes all of the pre-cut wood, epoxy, and hardware. They also offer a galley module that can be built separately and then installed at the end for a very reasonable price of \$359. Other kits available include a beautiful matching wood tongue box, folding step stool, and a very unique cargo carrier solution that is on the trailer, but under the teardrop, shown below.





An added bonus of this teardrop is the weight. The tiny camper will be about 250 pounds when fully completed (minus the trailer). With an aluminum trailer, the total weight is likely under 600 pounds which can be towed by nearly any vehicle.

### ***Tiny Camper - Europe***

This one is for our European friends. Tinycamper is a teardrop manufacturer that also sells kits. Their website touts that you can “make your first camper without carpentry skills.” They offer different packages, all dependent on what you’re looking for. You can purchase these packages



separately: all body parts, exterior which includes the aluminum sheets, windows, etc., plumbing, electrical, chassis, and custom cabinets. So if you’re on a tight budget, you could hold off on the plumbing or electrical until you're ready.

Tinycamper also has three fully

prepared packages beginning with their Compact Level kit at €5599. This will get you a homebuilt camper with no electric or plumbing, but everything else is included. The Amateur Level Kit (€6097) has upgraded interior cabinets and includes electrical components, including a 60Ah deep cycle battery. The Pro Level Kit (€7973) includes their exclusive cabinet package, under mattress storage, and headrest storage. This Pro kit also upgrades the electrical system to a Li-Ion 50Ah battery which includes a 1000 watt inverter. These three kits are only available in the EU.

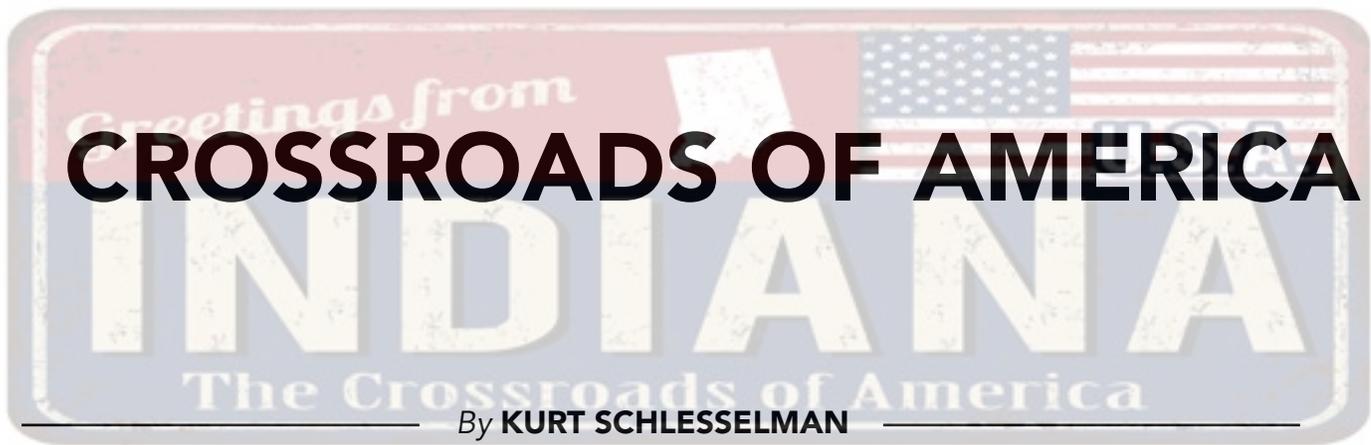
Eugenijus Jusas, the Co-founder of Tinycamper recently told me that shipping to the US is difficult because of the size of the kits. However, if you are willing to pick up in Los Angeles, it may be possible to arrange with Tinycamper.

If you are interested, they have a DIY order form on their website so you can request more information before ordering.

Tinycamper also offers free lifetime consultation for DIY kit builders as an added benefit.

In the next issue, we will continue to highlight additional companies that provide kits for you to build your own camper. ■





"Crossroads of America" is a name associated with many places in the middle of the country but to "us" [the Hoosier Chapter of Tearjerkers] it has a special meaning.

This event is sponsored by the "Camping and RV community" as well as the help from other Tearjerkers Chapters such as Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Southern Appalachian and Illinois. Also keeping the event manageable are dedicated helpers from other chapters all in an effort to make the gathering a fun and memorable event.

In 2011 the inaugural event of the "Crossroads of America Gathering" [CRA] event took place at McCormick's Creek State Park in Spencer, Indiana.

A great turnout of campers began signing up for one of the biggest Teardrop trailer gathering in the nation. The excitement was amazing and the 146 registrations added to the fun with 26 states and 2 countries represented.

So far we have had 5 very successful biennial events which means, of course that CRA2021 will be our sixth gathering.

This year we have decided to move the gathering to a new venue and a new date. We are hoping to fight back against the mid-summer heat that has plagued us in past events. Only time will tell if our decision was a good thing.

Instead of McCormick's Creek SP, the venue for CRA2021 will be at:  
**Whitewater State Park in Liberty, IN.**  
**September 9-12, 2021**

We are attracting Sponsors to help us successfully fund the event and will be offering Registration forms [on our web site] for the attendees. Details can be found at: [CRA2021.com](http://CRA2021.com)

Special thanks to "Cool Tears" magazine for publishing this notice and helping us spread the word.

CRA2021 committee  
[CRA2021.weebly.com](http://CRA2021.weebly.com)

# CAMPING WITH KIDS

By **BRYAN SMITH**

**C**ontinuing our coverage of camping with kids. Here is another installment by Bryan, from [Outsidehow.com](https://www.outsidehow.com). Be sure to read the first article on [Camping with Kids in the July/August 2020 issue](#).

## ACCOMODATING THE SMALLEST CAMPERS

While it would certainly be easier to have everyone doing the same activities at the same time, preferences and expectations can vary depending on the age group. It's wise to discuss ahead of time what the trip will be like especially for toddlers and little kids. Give them an idea of how long the car ride will be and the fun things they can do along the way.

Babies are easy enough to travel with. Pack along a portable bed that can double as an outdoor playpen. Put a mosquito net over top to let the tiniest of the group enjoy the sounds and sights of nature.

Toddlers have a natural curiosity, so be prepared for impromptu hikes. Bring paper and crayons for them to draw what they see while learning not to pick or touch everything they see.



It's also a great idea to put a tag on your little wanderer too. It can be as simple as an index card in a luggage tag pinned to them or hanging from a lanyard. Be sure the tag has their name, age, your campsite number, your vehicle's license plate, your name and cell phone number to be sure if someone finds them, they know how to find you.

Younger kids between the ages of five and 10 are usually excited about new experiences. They'd enjoy helping to set up the campsite, building fires and bombarding you with endless questions of excitement about what they're doing.

Teens can be the most finicky of the bunch, but still, this should be an invaluable experience for them as well. Be flexible and let them bring along a friend. If they want to take off on their own for a bit, bring some walkie talkies so that they can keep in touch with the home base while they're out expressing their independence. Talk about how much time they'll have to themselves versus planned time for family activities. Preparing children of all ages for what to expect will minimize disappointment while on your trip.



## INFANTS AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS

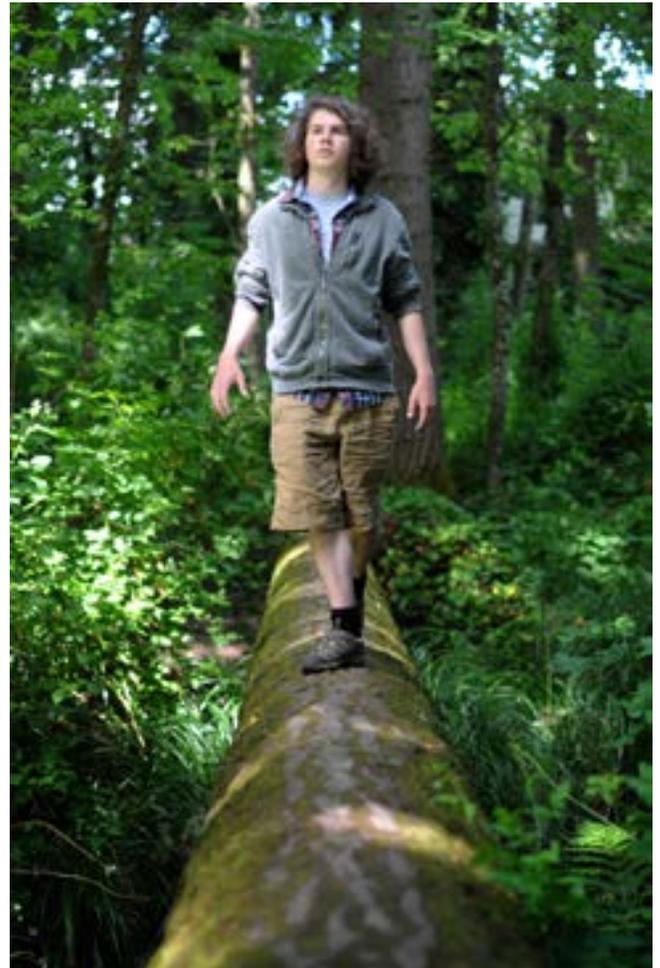
Babies typically love the outdoors since there are so many things for them to see, hear and touch. Unfortunately, there are a lot of things for them to see, hear and touch. Try packing some play mats and blankets to lay down outside giving them a wide area to crawl around without getting into too much trouble. If they're too small for tummy time outside, try bringing along their playpen. Stretching a crib sheet over the top gives them some much-needed shade from the sun and protection from insects.

## PACKING THE TOY CHEST

Don't do it! As much as the kids would love to bring every item they enjoy playing with at home, reduce their toy baggage to one or two of their favorites. Encourage them to play in their surroundings. Bring toys like kites and balls to keep them occupied outside in an unstructured setting. You may want to pack something to keep them occupied in those first waking moments until you can collect yourself, but other than that keep it simple. Don't pile the toy chest into the car. Let their imagination run free.

## COZYING UP AT BEDTIME

Sticking closely to your regular bedtime routine is optimal for little ones. It will certainly help when you return to your regularly scheduled program back at home. Nighttime on a campsite can be magical. Snuggling up inside of sleeping bags, leaving the flap of the tent open to catch a cool breeze or even sharing sleeping bags can create some of the best moments of the trip. Tidy up and tell bedtime stories.



## PREP FOR NOT WAKING UP AT HOME

Camping is one of those experiences that can be jarring when you're unprepared for the tiny comforts of home you have to do without. One of them being walls! Little ones who wake raring to go might do better if you pack a toy or coloring book for them to play with until you're completely awake. Packing a travel toilet can make it easier for the potty training tikes to go without having to hike to a bathroom in the middle of the night. Make sure to pack earplugs for the light sleepers who like to sleep in late or turn in early. ■



**NOTE:** One of the great things about having a digital magazine is the ability to link you directly to the products or services that you want to hear more about. Some of the links on our website or in the magazine are affiliate links where we earn a small commission on goods that you purchase, this does NOT raise the price of what you're purchasing in any way. These commissions help us to continue to defray the costs of publishing this magazine. You may notice as you read through the magazine that if you put your mouse over any ad, the screen may flash briefly. You can click on that picture of our advertisers and it will take you directly to their website.

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We appreciate your support. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact either of us at [Lisa@cooltears.com](mailto:Lisa@cooltears.com) or [Anne@cooltears.com](mailto:Anne@cooltears.com)

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# HOW TO USE ALLSTAYS PRO TO FIND YOUR NEXT CAMPSITE

By LISA ADAMS

If we're camping near home, we know where we want to stay, but if we're traveling out of state we often need help in finding suitable places, especially if we want to hook up to electric or have access to water. In the early fall of 2019, we traveled from Michigan to South Dakota and Nebraska, using AllStays Pro to help us figure out our options each night. One of the highlights was a campsite near the Crazy Horse Monument in South Dakota where we could see the monument...right from our teardrop.

AllStays is a useful tool when planning a camping experience. One of the benefits of AllStays, is that campgrounds do not pay a fee to be profiled or included, so the information is user generated and unbiased. It includes over 37,000 private, state and national park campgrounds, as well as RV parks, boondocking locations, hotels with parking, Walmarts, and casinos. Many of these are places where you can stay the night for free. You can also find truck stops with dumping stations if you need to empty your tanks or cassette toilet.

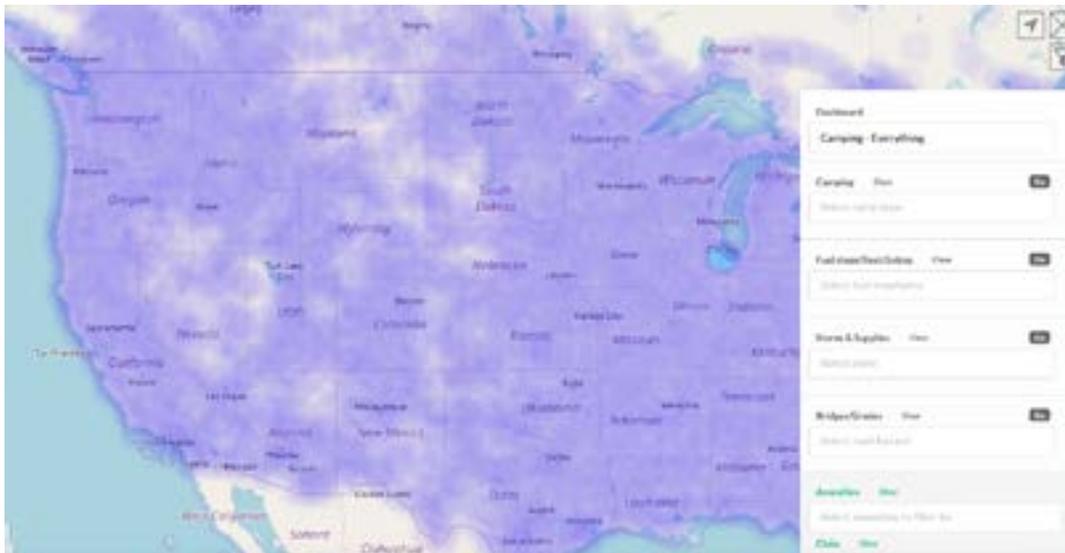
If you have any of the following memberships or club discounts, you can access their location and service information on AllStays as well: Good Sam, Passport America, Escapees, KOA, 1000 Trails, Resorts of Distinction, AOR, and Coast to Coast. If you are an Elk or Moose Lodge member, this will help you find locations across the country where you can spend the night. AllStays shows all of the amenities and includes seasonal closing information, so you can travel with confidence knowing if there are water sources, toilets or restrooms, picnic tables, swimming pools, playgrounds, boat launches, hiking trails, laundry, propane, dump stations, internet access, etc. It will also indicate if the campground is pet friendly or age restricted. AllStays Pro will even show nearby restaurants, grocery stores, laundry facilities, post offices, hardware stores, veterinarians, and hospitals.

Currently, the AllStays app is only available for Apple products such as iPhones and iPads. We prefer to use AllStays Pro, which differs, as it is a website rather than an app and is available on any computer, tablet, or smartphone through web access. We can use AllStays Pro on our iPhone (using Safari). If you have an Android phone, you could use AllStays Pro by using your

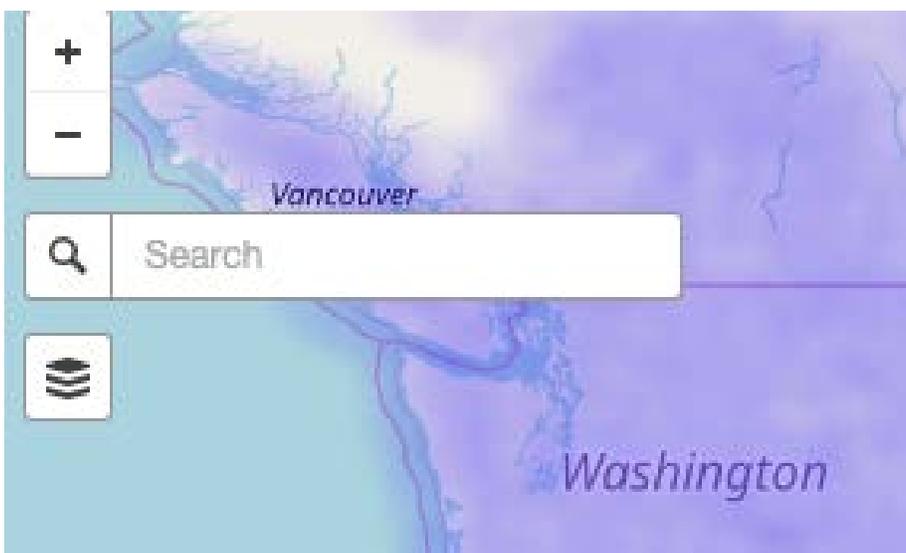
internet browser. [AllStays Pro](#) DOES HAVE MORE information than the app and is updated more frequently.

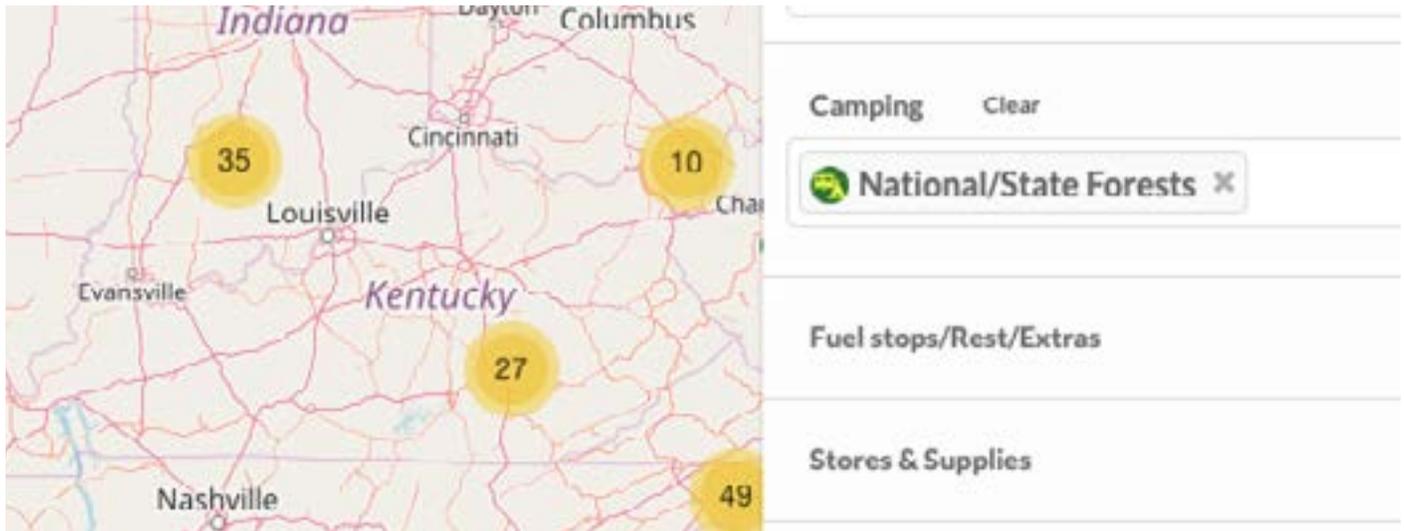
### Here's how it works

Use a browser or download the app and create an account. After logging in, you're shown a map of the United States and Canada with a menu of available filters on the right of the screen.

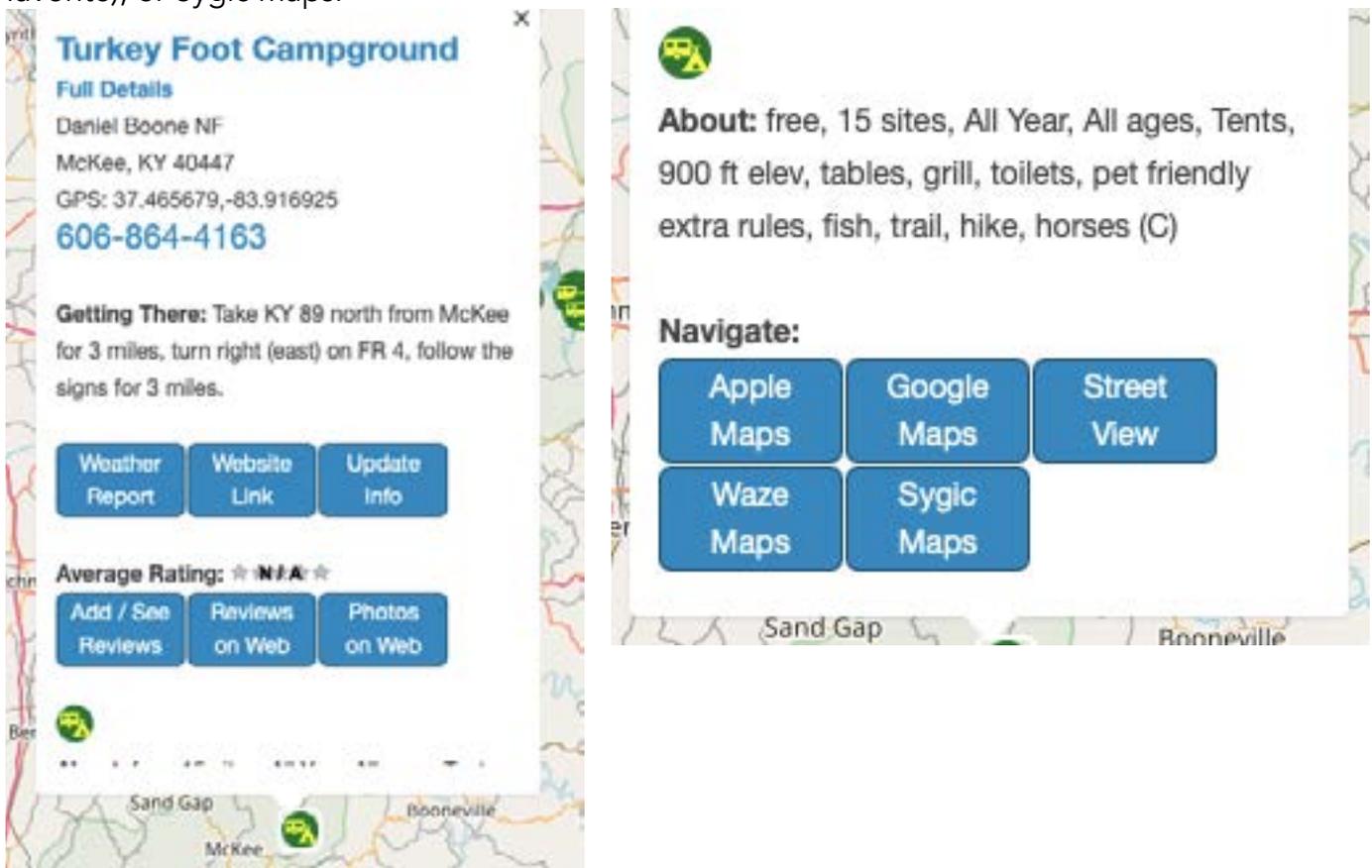


You can search by using the search box in the upper left corner of the screen or you can zoom and pan on the map to any area of the United States or Canada. If you just want to search for National Forests you can filter your view so only those will show on your map. If you are not zoomed in to a tight area, then the number of locations that meet your criteria will be shown on the map.





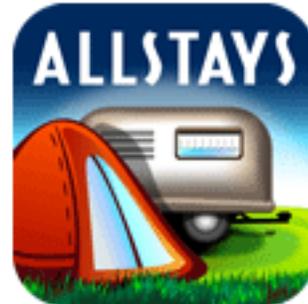
Once you find a campground that interests you, click on the icon and more information will load. It will show the cost range, how many sites there are, the open season, and all other amenities. You can access the current weather, reviews, GPS coordinates from that one click as well. The phone number and website of location (if they have one) are also on that first click. You're also given the option to navigate to the campground via Apple Maps, Google Maps, Waze maps (our favorite), or Sygic maps.



The website also has a full tutorial on how to use the site in case you have any questions. AllStays was created by an RVer for RVers. It may not be the prettiest interface out there, but it definitely has the most information.

There are different ways to subscribe. We opted for the multi-year option because it offered the largest discount. Currently, pricing is \$34.95 per year. You can choose a renewing subscription, which renews at \$32.95/year or a one year access for the \$34.95 price. We purchased the 3 year subscription which saves you \$10. [Had I known how useful it was, I would have purchased the 5 years subscription which saves you \\$20.](#) Click the link to go to go the Allstays website to see more information and to determine if AllStays Pro is right for you, too. ■

[Social distancing items available on the Cool Tears Teespring Store](#)



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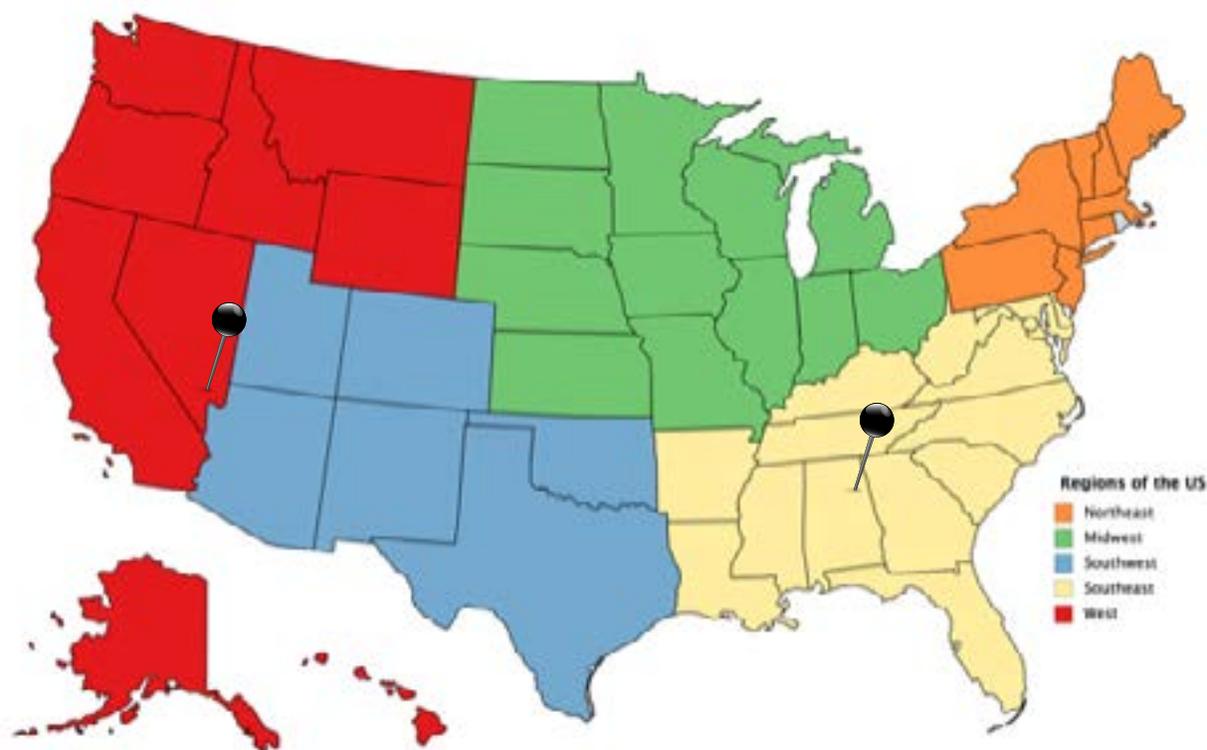
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RUSTIC CABINS/SNOWSHOEING  
HOT COCOA/BONFIRES/NATURE  
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TRAILS END, COPPER HARBOR, MI



# REGIONAL CAMPING SPOTLIGHT



Created with mapbox.com

**"T**he real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." - Marcel Proust

This quote really hit home for the Cool Tears staff. Since the start of the pandemic, we have opted to stay closer to home for most of this year's adventures. From that first week we had to work from home, we set out to explore the area we live in more thoroughly. Between the two of us, we have 50+ years of living in our corner of the state, yet we found some parks or hiking trails that we didn't know existed. Even though we thought we knew everything our area of the state offered, we began looking through a new lens and found some wonderful hiking trails and remote camping locations that are now amongst our favorites.

Both of the parks highlighted are near three major metropolitan areas: Las Vegas, Nevada, Birmingham, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia. These parks are great examples that show no matter how urban-based your life may be, it's possible to find hidden gems nearby, as long as you're willing to see them.

**Location: Cheaha State Park**  
19644 Highway 281  
Delta, AL 36258

**Getting There:**

GPS Info (Latitude, Longitude):

33.4856, -85.8092

33°28'28"N, 85°48'35"W

Cheaha State Park is located about halfway between Birmingham, Alabama and Atlanta, Georgia. This southernmost tip of the Appalachian Mountain chain is the highest point in Alabama at 2407 feet (733 m) above sea level at the top of Cheaha Mountain. While the park is only 2800 acres (1133 ha), it is completely surrounded by the Talladega National Forest which is nearly 400,000 acres (161,874 ha). This makes the park ideal for off-road or all terrain vehicle riding. The park offers easy access to the Kentuck ORV-ATV Trail.

If you prefer a slower, more natural mode of transportation, this park won't disappoint. Cheaha State Park is known for its beautiful waterfalls and spectacular sunsets which can be viewed from high atop the granite boulders next to the wind-swept trees. The park is also home to the Cheaha Trailhead of the Pinhoti Trail, which connects with the Appalachian Trail. There are two waterfalls within the park boundary and three a short distance away in the Talladega National Forest. Within the park, visitors can easily see Reservoir Falls and Laurel Falls (a small fee is required in this area). The three falls that are within the Talladega National Forest are Cheaha Falls (access from the Turnip Seed Parking area and hike down Chinnabee Silent Trail); High Falls, a three tiered waterfall reached by a moderately difficult hike which includes a rock wall ladder; and Devil's Den (access from the Lake Chinnabee Recreation Area Parking lot). A \$3 USFS parking fee is required.

If you'd rather mountain bike, there are five trails on the east side of the park created as bike trails. Hikers are welcome on these trails, but need to yield to mountain bikers. The trails include Cheaha Express, Deer Run, Lower Spring Loop, Upper Spring Loop, and Cheaha Run.

Number of Sites: 77

Pets: yes, there is a dog park within the state park

Water: yes

Electric: yes

Price per night: \$\$ - \$\$\$ (\$19 primitive - \$31 improved)

Fire Rings: yes

Picnic Tables: yes

Restrooms/Showers: yes

Four sites are ADA accessible.

There are two unimproved camping areas within the park accounting for another 53 rustic campsites. Most of these sites offer a picnic table, fire ring, shared water spigots, and access to public restrooms or pit toilets (no bathhouse access).

**Primary activities within the park:**

ORV-ATV riding, mountain biking, hiking, wildlife and waterfall viewing

**Pro Tip:**

Relax in the highest pool in Alabama after your day's adventure or dine in their cliffside restaurant.



Top: Sunset Bottom: Fall in Cheaha State Park

**Location:** Valley of Fire State Park  
29450 Valley of Fire Highway  
Overton, NV 89040

**Getting There:**

GPS Info (Latitude, Longitude):

36.4187, -114.5517

36°26'11.99"N, -114°31'34.19"W

Valley of Fire State Park in Nevada is roughly a 50 mile (80 km) drive northeast of Las Vegas, at an elevation between 1,320–3,009 feet (402–917 m). This world renowned state park covers nearly 40,000 acres (16,187 ha) and features bright red Aztec sandstone outcroppings which are nestled within the normal gray and tan limestone of the area. This sandstone is from the Jurassic period and was created by the sand left behind after an inland sea subsided. The park contains ancient, petrified trees and petroglyphs dating back more than 2000 years. The Visitor Center has exhibits on the geology, ecology, and history of the park and nearby region.

The most popular activity at Valley of Fire State Park is hiking to see the petroglyphs, petrified trees, and various rock formations called Arch Rock, Elephant Rock, Beehive, White Dome and more. It is recommended to inquire at the Visitor Center for suggestions on day hikes of varying length and terrain. Be sure to carry plenty of water with you.



*Elephant Rock - Valley of Fire State Park*

The Valley of Fire State Park is within the Mojave Desert, so the climate is warm and dry. The average high temperature from May to September is over 90F, so it is recommended to go from October through April. The average annual precipitation in this area is less than 4.5" of rain - so you're nearly guaranteed to have dry weather. If you are seeking out the 70F temperature year round, then we recommend visiting this park in March or November.

All campsites are first-come, first-served. A camping limit of 14 days in a 30-day period is enforced.

No drones allowed within the park.

Number of Sites: 72 within 2 campgrounds

Pets: yes

Water: yes

Electric: yes

Price per night: \$\$ - \$\$\$ (\$20 - \$30) \$20 with no hook ups, \$30 with hook ups

Fire Rings: yes

Picnic Tables: yes

Restrooms>Showers: yes

Two sites are ADA accessible

**Primary activities within the park:** hiking, exploring the ancient petroglyphs and various rock formations. Rock climbing is allowed in some areas of the park

**Pro Tip:** Visit in March or April when the wildflowers are blooming. Two springtime favorites are the pink and yellow flowered beavertail cactus and magenta or pink hedgehog cactus flowers.



*Beehive - Valley of Fire State Park*

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