



Girl Scouts.
Where Girls Grow Strong™

Camp Away Your Troubles Today!



Citrus Council
Troop 1600

Kelly Park

Where is it located?

Northwest Orange County, in Apopka (407) 889-4179

How do we get there?

From I-4, exit onto SR 436 heading west. Continue through Altamonte Springs and Forest City. Merge onto SR 441 in Apopka. Turn right onto Park Ave. OR

From 429(toll), turn right onto 441 and then left onto Park Ave. Follow Park Ave until the end; about six miles. Turn right at T-intersection onto Kelly Park Rd. The road will curve around to the left. Kelly Park will be on your right.

What facilities do they have?

Full-service camping, group tent camping area with bathrooms/hot showers nearby, picnic area, rental pavilions, playground

What activities can we do?

Hiking, swimming, snorkeling, and tubing are available. Canoes can be rented from nearby King's landing. There is a shuttle service. Tubes can be rented from a couple of small grocery stores located outside the park. Tubes may be delivered for large groups.

Why we love it:

The tubing is a lot of fun. In some places it's really shallow, so you can get out and walk. If you like to snorkel you might find shark's teeth. It only takes about 20 minutes to float down the river, so you can go over and over as many times as you like.

A Word From Our Leader:

This park is a lot of fun for any age group. Rock Springs provides clear, cool (72) water for swimming and tubing. Lifeguards are on duty in the swimming area and at the beginning of the tube run. Park rangers are happy to lead a hike with a little advance notice. The camping area is shady and quite pretty. The individual sites and group area are both just a short walk from the water activities.

Wekiwa Springs State Park

Where is it located?

Northeastern Orange County

How do we get there?

From I-4, exit onto SR 436 or 434 heading west. Turn right on Wekiva Springs Road and continue past the Seminole/Orange county line. The park will be on your right soon after. OR

From 429(toll), turn right onto 441 and travel through Apopka. Turn left onto SR436. Turn left (just past theatre) onto Wekiva Spgs Rd. Follow sign into park. It will be on your left.

What facilities do they have?

Multiple full facility family, primitive, and youth camping areas with water and electric hook-ups, bathrooms, picnic areas, fishing pond, picnic pavilions, concession, canoe rental, dump station, and playground are available. Also, there are 2 backpacking campsites (located along 13 miles of hiking trail), and 8 miles of horseback trails (for those who use their own horses).

What activities can we do?

Swim in the cool spring, canoe on Wekiva River (travels 15 miles into the St. Johns River) and Rock Springs Run, hike on several trails, and an opportunity to see numerous threatened and endangered species including the American bald eagle and the Southern black bear!

Why we love it:

Canoeing up the river is fun. We saw many alligators and birds. At the end of the river, you can get out at the springs. Although the water is too deep to stand in many parts, it is quite an experience to feel the water rushing out from the earth. The Timucuan, who left behind a number of mounds still observable today, once inhabited Wekiwa Springs and its surrounding area.

A word from our leader:

The canoe ride up to the spring from Miami Springs Rd. is only about 45 minutes, perfect for younger scouts. Experienced scouts can rent a canoe from King's Landing and travel down the Rock Springs run (3-4 hours) to Wekiva Springs State Park. The group area is especially nice, but primitive.

Juniper Springs

Where is it located?

It's located in the central Ocala National Forest just east of Ocala.

How do we get there?

Take I-75 north to Ocala. Take State Road 40 east about 28 miles. The entrance road will be on your left.

What facilities do they have?

Restrooms, warm showers, a camp store, 79 camp sites, swimming area (72 degrees year-round), hiking trails, and canoe rentals are available.

What activities can we do?

Hiking, canoeing, swimming, and snorkeling are great.

Why we love it:

The Florida National Scenic Trail runs near the camp entrance. It is extremely natural and there is a chance of seeing deer, wild turkey, and a number of rare birds. The springs are a beautiful place to swim. The campgrounds are so far from the city that there is no light pollution, making the stars breathtaking.

A word from our leader:

This is one of the prettiest campgrounds in Florida. In the past, campsites were doled out on a first-come basis, which made it difficult to plan with scouts. That has changed; reservations can now be made on-line at Reserveamerica.com. The spring provides 72 degree water for year-round swimming. The one-way canoe run is narrow, but beautiful. It's about 7 miles (2-3 hrs) down to Wayside Park. A shuttle service will give you a ride back to the springs. If the girls are up to a hike, Hidden Pond is a couple of hours walk on the Florida Trail. Older girls might enjoy a backpacking trip through the pretty woods.

Faver-Dykes State Park

Where is it located?

Just 15 miles south of St. Augustine Florida (904) 794-0997

How do we get there?

From I-95, at exit 92, go north on US1. On the right you will see Amoco and Texaco gas stations. Turn right and follow the signs.

What facilities do they have?

Canoe rentals, playground, nature trail, boat ramp, full service camping with showers

What activities can we do?

Hiking, fishing, and canoeing are available in the park. A short drive away, Fort Matanzas has a great tour and a picnic area. There are lots of things to do in St. Augustine: Castillo San Marcos, Old Jail, Oldest school house, shopping.

Why we love it:

There is a lot of wildlife at this park: otters, armadillos, alligators, wild turkey, deer, and even bald eagles. The fishing and canoeing are good, too. Fort Matanzas is lots of fun. It's actually located on an island. The park rangers take you on a ferry. The shopping in St. Augustine is awesome.

A Word From Our Leader:

This park is shady and quiet. The canoe trails are easy enough for beginners. The current is so weak that paddling upstream is no problem. Fort Matanzas (904) 471-0116, is nearby. There is no charge for this 45 minute tour. The girls can view the sleeping quarters and climb up a small staircase to view the river from the guard towers. The fort is on an island; the ferry goes every hour on the half-hour. There are lovely spots to picnic on the mainland. The park is close enough to St. Augustine for a day trip.

Anastasia State Recreation Area

Where is it located?

At the Atlantic Ocean in St. Augustine (904) 461-2000

How do we get there?

From interstate 95 at exit 94, go east on state road 207, then turn right onto County Road 312. Turn north on Highway A1A. The park is 1.5 miles ahead on the right.

What facilities do they have?

This park is on the Atlantic Ocean! Each site has a picnic table, fire ring, grill, and piped water, and almost all have electricity. They have showers, restrooms, dump stations, beach accessory rentals, and bait. There is also a concession.

What activities can we do?

Ocean swimming, fishing, surfing, sunbathing, canoe rentals, windsurfing lessons and rentals, a 1.5 mile nature trail, a playground, horseshoes, and a big camp circle for entertaining.

Why we love it:

We loved this park a lot. The beach was so close to us and it wasn't very crowded, so we could have fun by ourselves a lot. Also, the camp sites were very shaded. There were lots of nature trails, where you can see many different types of wildlife and scenery.

A Word From Our Leader:

This park is very popular, so reservations need to be made well in advance. The beach is a short walk from the shady campground. It is unspoiled National Seashore. St. Augustine is very close. The restaurants and shops are fun. Sightseeing at the fort, old jail, oldest school house is worthwhile.

Ichetucknee Springs Campground

Where is it Located?

Near Fort White, about 30 miles north of Gainesville, (904)497-2285

How do we get there?

From Interstate 75 northbound, take exit 78 onto US 27 and drive north for 15 miles to state road 47. Turn west on county road 238 and drive one mile to the park.

What facilities do they have?

There are 9 RV sites and 23 tent sites. Restrooms, hot showers, a dump station, a tavern, two game rooms, a volleyball field, a basketball court, and horseshoe pits are available. Canoes, inner tubes, and snorkeling equipment may be rented.

What activities can we do?

A leisurely sport of river tubing; the tube run is 3.5 miles. Floating down the river will take you 60 to 90 minutes from the south entrance or 2-3 hours from the north entrance.

Why we love it:

This is an easy activity. Just float and let the river do all the work. The river is crystal clear; you can see turtles swimming below you. Also, there are lots of jumping fish all around you.

A Word From Our Leader:

This is a private campground. It doesn't have the same feel as a state park, but it's very nice and it's across the street from Ichetucknee Springs State Park. The state park doesn't have any camping facilities. People from the campground provide a shuttle service to the State Park. It's important to be at the State Park by 9:30 am, as they only take 750 tubers a day. To keep this delicate environment in pristine condition, food and drink are prohibited on the river, so be sure to drink a bottle of water before you head out.

Blue Springs State Park

Where is it Located?

2100 West French Avenue
Orange City, Florida 32763 (386) 775-3663

How do we get there?

Take exit 114 off Interstate 4 and follow the signs. Go south on 17-92 to Orange City, about 2.5 miles. Make a right onto West French Avenue.

What facilities do they have?

Primitive, full-facility tent sites, and cabins are available. Primitive camping involves a 4-mile hike in and out of the campsite. The Park offers lots of space for picnicking. There are pavilions and grills for larger groups. There is a concession stand and canoe rental.

What activities can we do?

Fishing, and picnicking. You can canoe the Blue Springs run or the St. Johns River. Blue Springs provides wooden trails you can hike through the lush Florida forest. The park offers swimming and scuba diving in the crystal clear, 72 degree water. Manatees frequent the park during the winter months. People can observe the manatees from the docks at the park.

Why we love it:

The manatees are really close for you to see. It's Florida at its best. There's a lot to do here: swimming, hiking, canoeing. DeLeon Springs is not far away. You can make your own breakfast over a griddle built right into the table.

A Word From Our Leader:

The campsites are shady and nice. There are six fully equipped, heated /cooled cabins. It's great in the winter because that's when the manatees visit the park. There is a short informational film about the manatees in the concession area. The canoe run is very short – about a half hour. Blue Springs is right on the St. Johns River, so you may pull a boat up to the park for the day. It may not be left overnight. If time permits, head north about 10 miles, to DeLeon Springs for an unforgettable breakfast experience.

Hontoon Island State Park

Where is it Located?

Hontoon Island is located 6 mi. west of Deland, off of State Road 44. It is only accessible by private boat or ferry service (no charge), which operates from 8:00am until one hour before sundown. A parking area is provided on the mainland. (904) 736-5309

How do we get there?

Take I-4 toward Deland. Exit on S.R. 44., heading west. Veer left onto Old Route 44. Follow well-marked route to the dock, where you will have access to the ferry.

What facilities do they have?

12 primitive tent sites, and 6 rental cabins are available. Cabins are one room with bunks, no linens. Restrooms, hot showers, picnic table, grill are all part of the camping area. A separate picnic area overlooks St. Johns River, with playground and 80 ft. observation tower. There is a 3-mi round trip nature trail. Boat dock includes 52 slips. Paddle boats and canoes may be rented.

What activities can we do?

Hiking, fishing, climb the tower, paddle boating

Why we love it:

It's an island! The nature trail takes you past Timucuan shell mounds. You can see most of the island from on top of the tall tower.

A Word From Our Leader:

Hontoon Island is truly unique because it is only accessible by boat. All your supplies must be brought over on the ferry. The campsites are about a half mile walk. The ranger will take heavy, bulky items in a pick-up truck. Swimming is out of the question, as the island is surrounded by marsh and swamp. Alligators are numerous. This park is also great for a day trip for younger scouts.

Fort Wilderness

Where is it located?

Disney Camp Grounds, Fort Wilderness, is located in Orlando on the Walt Disney World property. Just follow the big black ears! (407) 934-7639

How do we get there?

From I-4, take exit 26B and follow the signs to the campground.

What facilities do they have?

Fort Wilderness offers full service camping, air-conditioned bath house, laundry facilities, ice machine, charcoal grills, large bonfire area with seating, picnic tables, volleyball nets, tetherball, and heated pools. Also, there are buses running to take you to any location within the grounds. If you want to get fancy, they have golf carts available for rent! Call for prices.

What activities can we do?

There is a petting farm, pony rides, swimming, canoe and paddle boat rentals near the lake, motorboat rentals at marina, hay rides, nature walk, two playgrounds, two restaurants and two stores to buy snacks and necessities. There is also large outdoor amphitheater with a nighttime Disney movie, a show by Chip and Dale, and a delicious marshmallow roast.

Why we love it:

The campgrounds are very clean! There is so much to do. All of the activities are really fun and everyone will definitely enjoy them.

A Word From Our Leader:

This is a great place to start if you're new to camping. Disney will have large cabin tents set up for you, upon request. Of course, it costs a bit more. There is no charge for the nightly Disney movie. Bring your own marshmallows and sticks to the campfire. Trail rides on horseback are available for older scouts. A private hayride can be arranged if you have enough people in your party. The electric water show every evening is a treat. Arrive early in the day if possible. Check-in gets really crowded after 2:00.

Lake Louisa State Park

Where is it located?

Lake Louisa is located in southwest Orange County near Clermont. It's right off of US 27. (352) 394-3969

How do we get there?

Take West SR 50 to Clermont. Turn South on US 27. Campground is about 7 miles on the right.

What facilities do they have?

Lake Louisa offers full service camping (electricity & hot showers), rental cabins (open Oct. 2004), 3 large lakes with docks for small boats or canoes, nature trail, horse trails & barn, lake with sandy beach, and picnic pavilions.

What activities can we do?

Fishing, hiking, and picnicking are popular at this park. Canoeing and horseback riding are available, but you must arrange for canoes or horses to be transported to the park.

Why we love it:

This campground is brand new, less than a year old. The bathrooms are very clean! The lakes are so pretty.

A Word From Our Leader:

The lakes are ringed with tall cypress; truly a beautiful Florida sight. There is swimming in Lake Louisa, but we saw two large alligators just 10 yards off shore, so the girls were content to just relax on the beach. Since the campground at the state park is new, the foliage between campsites is quite sparse. Trees have been planted, but they aren't large enough to provide shade or privacy. Try to get campsites which back up to one of the lakes or better yet, get a cabin! They are heated/cooled and sleep up to 6 people.

Favorite Recipes

We usually eat pretty well when we camp. Of course we have had a few issues along the way. There have been undercooked foil packets, burned foil packets, and ash covered cannolis. We like our dutch oven because the flavor is always terrific. We really love our electric skillet. If the site has electricity we try to plan at least one meal with the electric skillet because it is so fast and easy. What follows are some of our favorites.

Chicken & Biscuits

3 lbs boneless chicken tenderloins
4 stalks celery, sliced
6 carrots, sliced
6 potatoes, cubed
2 onions, diced
1 pkg frozen peas (optional)
¼ butter or olive oil
¼ cup flour
1 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper
1 tsp thyme or poultry seasoning
3 cups chicken broth
Refrigerated biscuits

Heat large dutch oven over 8 hot coals. Sauté vegetables in butter or olive oil for about 10 minutes. Add some broth if it's sticking. Mix flour and seasonings together (this can be done at home; bring in a ziplock bag). Sprinkle over vegetables and stir. Add chicken, peas, and broth. Stir to mix well. Cover and place 12 to 14 hot coals on top. Rotate the oven a quarter turn every 5-10 minutes. Cook about 40 minutes. Lift the lid and check thickness of stew. Add a little water, or boil off some extra liquid, if necessary. Test the vegetables with a fork. Continue to cook another 5 to 10 minutes if they're still hard. When the vegetables are ready, place biscuits on top of the stew. Replace lid and cook 15 minutes or until biscuits are golden brown. Serves 12-14

Favorite Recipes

White Chili

¼ cup olive oil
2 large onions, chopped
2 bell peppers, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 cans white beans, drained
1 large can corn, drained
1 7oz can diced green chilis
meat from 2 roasted chickens
2 cups chicken broth
1 family-size can cream of chicken soup
1 Tbsp pepper
1 Tbsp cumin
1 Tbsp oregano
1 tsp salt
soft tortillas, flour or corn
Condiments: grated cheese, salsa, sour cream, black olives, hot sauce

This dish may be made in a dutch oven (6 coals on bottom, 10 on top), large cook pot on a Coleman stove, or a crock pot. If using a crock pot, combine all ingredients, except tortillas and cook on high for 3 hours. Otherwise, saute onions, peppers, and garlic in olive oil until soft. Stir in all other ingredients except tortillas. Cover and simmer about an hour. Place a tortilla in each bowl. Ladle chili over tortilla. Add condiments.

Serves 10-12

Favorite Recipes

Sloppy Joes

2 lbs ground meat (turkey, beef, pork)
2 medium onions, finely diced
1 green pepper, finely diced
1 16 oz can pork & beans
1 8oz can tomato sauce
½ cup ketchup
1 tsp salt
1 tsp chili powder
12 6-inch hoagie rolls
Romaine lettuce leaves
Cheddar cheese slices

This may be prepared in a cast iron skillet over hot coals, electric frying pan, or regular skillet on a Coleman stove. Stir fry meat until it is well cooked. Drain off most of the fat. Add onions and pepper. Cook about 5 minutes. Add beans, tomato sauce, ketchup, salt, and chili powder. Simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Split rolls horizontally. Try not to cut all the way through. Line bottom half with a lettuce leaf. Spoon 2/3 cup meat mixture over lettuce; top with cheese.

Add celery, carrot sticks, and sliced fruit for a complete meal.

Favorite Recipes

Peanut butter pancakes

4 cups Bisquick
1/3 cup peanut butter
2 eggs
2 ½ cups milk
raisins, bananas, pecans, chocolate chips
butter, maple syrup

Spray griddle or non-stick skillet with cooking spray. Mix Bisquick, peanut butter, eggs, and milk together. Pour ¼ cup of batter onto hot griddle (375 degrees if using electric skillet). Cook until bubbles form. Turn and cook until golden. Garnish with toppings. Serve with butter and maple syrup. Makes 24 pancakes.

Breakfast burritos

12 eggs
2 cups cheese, shredded
1 onion, sliced
2 peppers, any color, sliced
sausage, ham, or bacon, if desired
12 flour tortillas
salsa
2 Tbsp olive oil

This may be prepared in a cast iron skillet over hot coals, electric frying pan, or regular skillet on a Coleman stove. Cook meat, if using. Remove from pan and wipe clean. Keep meat warm in foil. Saute onion and peppers in 2 Tbsp olive oil until soft. Remove from pan and keep warm. Scramble eggs in remaining olive oil or butter. Warm the tortillas in a campfire or in the pan. Spoon some egg into a tortilla. Top with cheese, onion/pepper mixture, sausage, and salsa.

Favorite Recipes

Dessert quesadillas

20 flour tortillas (fajita size)
mini marshmallows
chocolate chips, peanut butter chips,
coconut, brickle bits, etc.
butter
cinnamon sugar

Sprinkle one tortilla with mini marshmallows. Then add other toppings of choice. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Top with second tortilla. Spread a little butter on top. Cook in nonstick skillet 1 or 2 minutes per side, or wrap in foil and cook near campfire 10 minutes. Use any combination of fillings, but be sure to include marshmallows; they are important to the texture. Makes 10 quesadillas.

Campfire cannolis

2 pkg. refrigerated crescent rolls
2 cans whipped cream, chocolate or regular
chocolate chips
chocolate syrup

Loosely wrap 6 inches foil around the end of sticks or long campfire forks. Wrap one crescent roll around foil. Cook over campfire, rotating frequently until crescent will slide on the foil. Be patient. These take about 10 minutes. Be careful not to burn them. Slip cooked crescent onto plate. Fill hollow opening with chips and whipped cream. Drizzle with chocolate syrup. Makes 16 cannolis.

Cinnamon Apples

10 apples, peeled and sliced
½ stick butter
1/3 cup sugar (white or brown)
1 tsp cinnamon

This works with a cast iron skillet over a low fire, electric frying pan, or skillet on a Coleman grill. Melt butter. Saute apples slowly for about 10 minutes. Add sugar and cinnamon. Cook a few minutes more. They're great by themselves or as a topping for oatmeal, pancakes.

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