



EXPLORERS CLUB

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2025

CAMPING AT WOLF FORD HORSE CAMP

2025 SEASON
ISSUE III



FOREST
INSPIRED
NATURE
DISCOVERY™



CAMPING

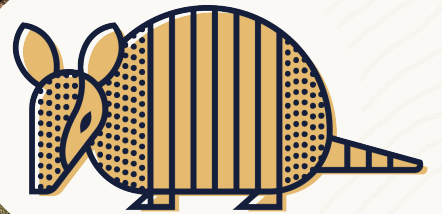
OCTOBER 11 & 12, 2025

The 2025 Explorers Club Camping Trip kicked off at FIND Headquarters, where we packed the van for our weekend getaway. We drove the backroads of Pisgah National Forest and arrived at Wolf Ford Horse Camp just thirty minutes later.



The Explorers jumped right in to help unpack and set up camp. With the entire campsite to ourselves, we claimed the largest spot and got to work pitching tents. Some Explorers were setting up a tent for the very first time, which made for lots of laughs. A few helpful hands were there to guide those who needed it, making sure everyone was ready for the weekend.







Firemaking and Lunch

Once camp was settled, it was time for a firemaking demonstration. To get the fire started, the Explorers collected tinder from the surrounding campsite, picking up fallen branches, twigs, and bark. They learned how to select the right logs for starting a fire and how to arrange them for proper airflow.

We demonstrated stacking wood, choosing larger firewood, though we admit we used a fire starter and a match... mostly because everyone was hungry for lunch!

With supervision, Lincoln helped grill hamburgers and hotdogs over the fire, while PB&Js were available for anyone who preferred them. The Explorers enjoyed the hands-on experience of cooking over a real campfire and refueled for the afternoon ahead, proud of their contributions to the fire.



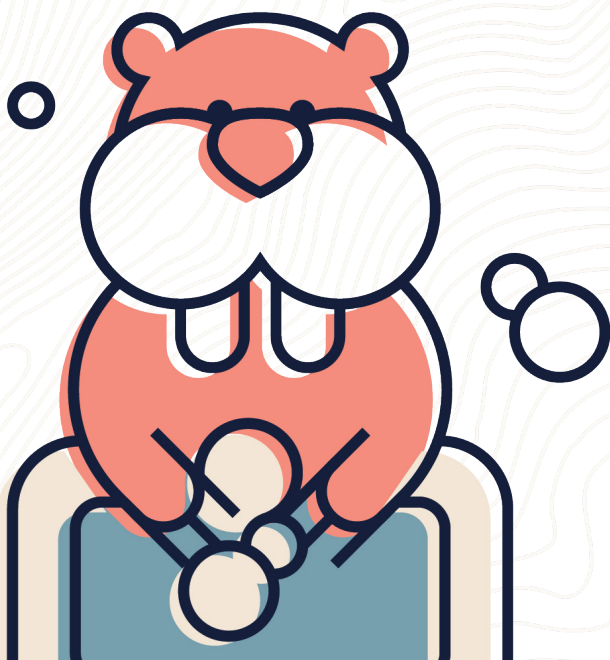


Exploring and Dinner Prep



The afternoon was spent exploring camp, wandering nearby paths, and searching for wildlife and critters. The Explorers discovered plants, insects, and even glimpsed a few small animals, noticing how busy the forest is in the evening.

Dinner prep began early, as chili cooked over the fire for several hours. Many Explorers were excited for chili, while a few were unsure. By the end, nearly everyone loved it and came back for seconds, enjoying it with sides of egg noodles or rice.



The Great Explorer Talent Show!

Before dinner, we held a "last-minute" talent show, giving the Explorers just ten minutes to prepare their acts for the coveted prize: chocolate chip cookies. The girls performed a cheer and dance routine with backflips, and the boys did a football toss, with Kirill making a one-handed catch. The girls' act won in the end, with Soliana and Rowan performing a hilarious version of "Do You Know How to Eat an Oreo?"



After the talent show, the Explorers played card games, wall ball, horse shoes, other camp games. Everyone pitched in with chores, practicing Leave No Trace and keeping the campsite clean while still having fun.



Glowing in the dark...

As night fell, the Explorers started a glow-in-the-dark party, making bracelets, necklaces, and even glowing glasses. We paused to hear the sounds of the night forest and played "Night at the Museum," where glowing dancers had to freeze when the "guard" shined a flashlight on them.

The Snipes!

The Explorers were also tricked into a classic snipe hunt, searching for magical creatures called snipes and making funny movements and noises. After a few "got away" attempts, one was finally "caught". Everyone laughed, (although some begrudgingly), when we revealed it was a made up practical joke!



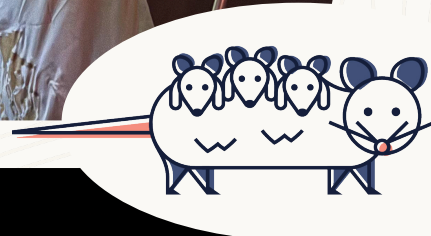
Not only did the glow sticks help us see each other in the dark, they were also fun to wear and make cool shapes designs with!





The night ended around the fire ring with stories and s'mores. Each Explorer had their own tent for the night. Giggles and whispers could still be heard long after lights out.







Good Morning!

The next morning, most Explorers woke early and had Mr. Diogo build a fire to warm up. We cooked and enjoyed a classic camping breakfast of pancakes, bacon, eggs, yogurt, and bananas, eating every last bite.

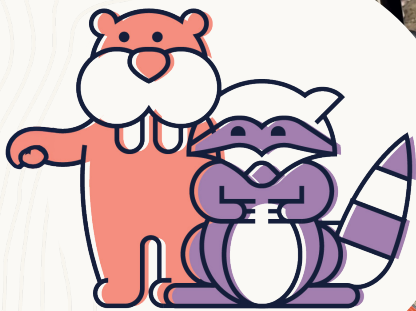
After breakfast, the Explorers packed up their tents and belongings, doing a final sweep of the campsite to make sure nothing was left behind. They practiced Leave No Trace by picking up stray trash, even items left by other visitors.

As we packed up the campsite, tired but smiling, the Explorers reflected on all the fun and activities from the weekend and from the season. Every tent taken down, every bag loaded, and every bit of trash picked up reminded us of a season full of adventures, learning, and laughter.

Farewell...!

Although it was bittersweet to leave, the kids walked away proud of their hard work and the memories they had made. From new skills learned on hikes, streams, and rock climbing, to moments of teamwork and playful mischief, the Explorers had built friendships that made each outing even more special. Even in our exhaustion from this trip, we carried with us the memories of a 2025 season filled with curiosity, courage, and joy in the outdoors.









LET'S GO
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Dear Explorers Club Families,

As the 2025 Explorers Club season comes to a close, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude. Thank you so much for making this season possible and for raising your Explorer with curiosity, kindness, and a love for the outdoors. Your support allowed them to try new skills, challenge themselves, and create memories that will certainly last a lifetime. This season was a true labor of love from the whole FIND team, including those behind the scenes you may not even have met. Everyone worked together to ensure a safe, fun, and engaging experience for every child. Their enthusiasm and teamwork made each activity memorable and fostered a welcoming environment for all.

We hope that the Explorers leave this season with an even deeper love and respect for nature. It is our continued hope that the 2025 season has been filled with adventures that inspire stewardship, curiosity, and confidence. The friendships, laughter, and skills built throughout the season are moments we will all cherish!

At FIND, our mission is to center forest education and stewardship through outdoor recreation. Our vision is to create a lasting community of appreciation for the outdoors. We are guided by our values:

Education: We inspire curiosity and understanding through engaging, nature-based learning experiences.

Intentionality: We act with purpose and care, ensuring every decision honors our mission.

Joy: We build an uplifting culture that encourages enthusiasm, gratitude, and a shared love for the outdoors.

Community: We are a nexus for partnership and collaboration within the public lands space.

Stewardship: We care for our public lands and natural resources, protecting them for current and future generations.

Though this season has ended, the excitement, growth, and adventurous spirit of these young learners will carry forward, guiding them as stewards of the outdoors and advocates for the natural world.

Thank you,

From all of us

-The Team at FIND Outdoors



Who would have thought that a group of mostly strangers, meeting for the first time in June, would by October share so many fond memories, embark on countless adventures, grow in confidence, curiosity, and form friendships that will last far beyond the season?



THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 EXPLORERS CLUB PARTNERS

Our community sponsors play a vital role in helping FIND Outdoors bring people together. Through their generous support of events, these partners help us create meaningful outdoor experiences, foster environmental stewardship, and strengthen connections across the region.

We're grateful for their continued investment in our mission!



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