



My kids first camping adventure, ever!

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

It was decided, before we ever left China to go on vacation to America, that my kids would go camping in my parents backyard. The unknown, was how they would respond to the camping. I wasn't too worried about Anna. She is game for almost anything. I also thought that if Nate could actually fall asleep he would be fine. And I suspected that Elizabeth would give into peer pressure and do it too.

The afternoon began with Steve and Nate getting the tent set up and Nate playing in it.



When you are new to the tent thing - sometimes getting out is quite tricky. He eventually did get untangled.

Sometime mid-afternoon Elizabeth went into the tent and there inside was a very small, very harmless bug. But this bug was enough for Elizabeth to announce, I am NOT sleeping in that tent. No way no how. There are no bugs in my room and that is where you will find me come tonight.

Thankfully she was convinced that as long as the tent is closed the bugs can't get in. And she gave in.

The evening started off great.



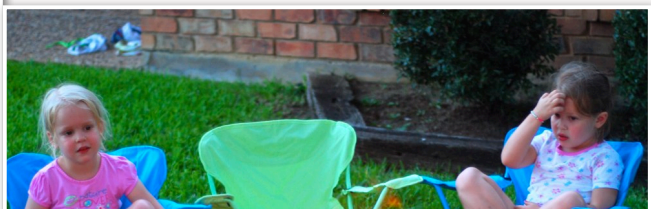
What's not great when you make s'mores? My mom had all the goodies necessary and Elizabeth had already placed her order. "Can I please have my cookie (graham cracker), chocolate and marshmallow not hot and everything separated". My answer, "no, but thanks for asking nicely".

My youngest brother Andrew/Uncle Drew, was needed as he is the resident fire starter in my family. Anytime a fire is needed who do we call? Uncle Drew to the rescue. ;)

The kids all helped collect and break sticks to 'help' him out.



Every bit of the process was complete fun for them.





He had the fire going in no time... such fun!!

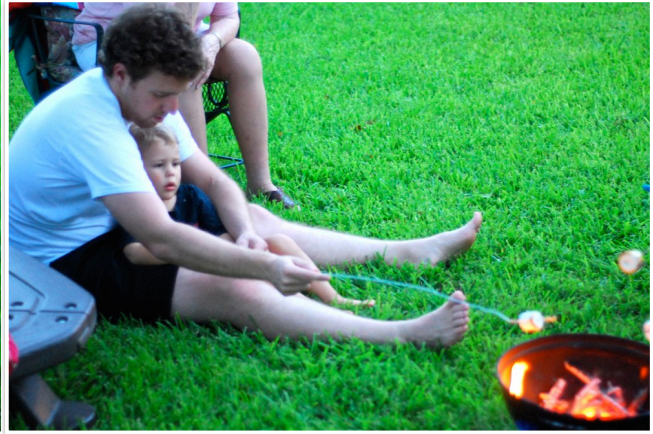


Then he taught them very important facts... like don't get too close to the fire, here's a cool stick for your marshmallow so you don't have to have wire hangers on hand, there is a fun game which involves stuffing 10 marshmallows into your mouth at one time. Important stuff.



The girls did good work and very soon the s'mores were ready.



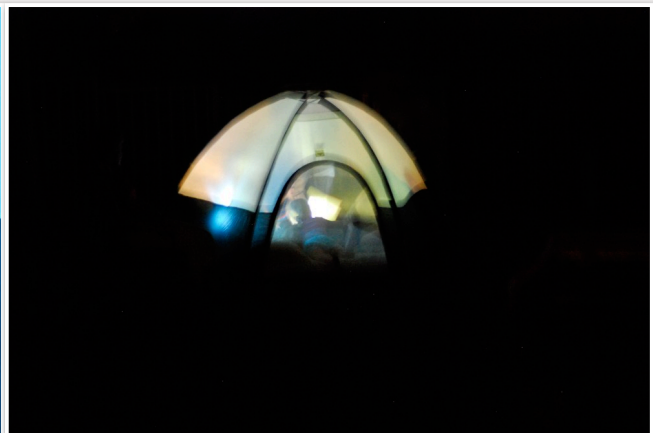


Even Grannie agreed they were finger lickin good. And that says a lot. My Nana is NOT a finger lickin' kind of lady. No way. My Nana doesn't even sweat. She says that horses sweat, she slightly perspires and removes herself from the heat source if the perspiration is too much. My Nana rocks. She is one of a kind.

But on this special evening, she licked her fingers.



Elizabeth got over that her smore wasn't made to her specifications and enjoyed it anyway.



My mom added a blow up air mattress to make the camping experience complete.

Then we got teeth brushed and once again tried to teach Nate how to pee outside (he won't do it), and tried

to get everyone to settle down. I tucked all my kids in, kissed them goodnight, took a few pictures, and went back inside. Good grief - you didn't think I was going to sleep out there? haha. Just kidding. I would have if I NEEDED to, but I didn't think it was necessary!

It was about 9pm when I left them and I was giving them about 2 hours before they came back inside. I stayed up waiting and waiting for the first of my kids to come in and ask to sleep in their beds inside the house.

But they never came. I woke up often during the night wondering how they were doing, but it wasn't until 6:30am that they were finally up for the day. I was so shocked they made it the whole night!



Apparently Nate had to get it once during the night to use the restroom, but was eager to get back to his tent.

It was such a hit and I am so thankful that they did so well! Maybe next time we they can try it in the *wild*.

6 Comments 

Susan 

I'm with you Erica, and Elizabeth. Not a fan of the bugs and tents and such, but it does make for great family bonding time. Just wondering how you tried to teach Nate to pee pee outside? He should have asked his cousins, they are experts at it.

Sunday, September 19, 2010 - 03:03 PM

[Steve](#) 

I just hope next time it is not so HOT. The temperatures while we were in Texas were in the 100's every day... I know it was cooler at night, but not that much cooler!

After Nate woke up to go to the bathroom, he didn't really go back to sleep for very long. You see, there is either a plane that flies overhead or a train blowing it's whistle at least every 20 minutes, and Nate feels a personal responsibility to 'announce' each and every one...