Camping in Large Groups: My Experience with International Students

Ryan Vincent

Preparation

Do
- Know the rating of your sleeping bag
- Know the volume of space available in your car
- Know the weather conditions

Do NOT Do
- Have a single meeting 24 hours before departure.
- Buy food without considering dietary restrictions of Muslims & Hindus
Traveling to the Site

**Do**
- Fill up with gas often
- Caravan
- Know the size of your vehicle

**Do NOT Do**
- Leave your passenger van unlocked at a gas station in Pueblo
- Drive to the Sand Dunes without filling up with gasoline

Setting Up the Campsite

**Do**
- Use stakes for the tent
- Let the “camping experts” do the work

**Do NOT Do**
- Use rocks for the tent
- Unsecure your tent allowing for tents and bags to blow away...and chase them down later
Role Call & Night Activities

**Do**
- TAKE IT!!! OFTEN!!!
- Sing campfire songs, but be courteous to nearby campers
- Caravan to location in dark

**Do NOT Do**
- Leave two students in a National Park at night, intentionally
- Blast/Karaoke Today’s Top 100 Hits for the entire valley to hear
- Have cars come back in random waves from 9:30 pm to midnight

Food Preparation & Cooking

**Do**
- Have a grill of appropriate size depending on how many people you plan on cooking for

**Do NOT Do**
- Cook on a skillet, directly on the fire, after a quart of lighter fluid was spilled on it
Sleeping

**Do**
- Assign roommates before arriving to prevent people being left out in the cold
- Be sure to know the size of your tent...and set it up before leaving for your trip

**Do NOT Do**
- Leave food open outside
- Leave an open fire going in a wooded area overnight
- Leave cars unlocked or with lights on; this will drain the battery

Sources & Questions

- Ryan Vincent
- Brennan Requist
- James Wood