



## Making Camp: A Visual History Camping's Most Essential Items & Activities

**Martin Hogue**

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Noting that camping rocketed in popularity during COVID-19, *Making Camp* explores the history of recreational camping, from its nineteenth-century Adirondack beginnings through to the present. With an abundance of vintage illustrations and photographs, it documents the evolution of the campground as a spatial setting while tracking its essential components, from tents to sleeping bags. Quotes about woodcraft and technical drawings of firepits and picnic tables add panache.

This thought-provoking book points out dichotomies between the ideal of spontaneously communing with the wilderness and the development of campgrounds as regulated, dense communities where vehicles and people are often segregated from sensitive natural environments. But with the addition of each amenity—however rusticated with stone and timber they are—the book asserts that campgrounds have become about as wild as suburban driveways, making them a “stage for cultural fantasies” (and don’t forget the WIFI). This disconnect is evident in the historical photographs, including Bruce Davidson’s amusing 1960s shots of national park campers in hair curlers, and via pages from retro campground guides and maps.

*Making Camp* is an entertaining survey of campers’ favorite gear and activities, whether they’re “roughing it” in tents, recreational vehicles, or glamp-sites reserved months ahead.

RACHEL JAGARESKI (May / June 2023)

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