



Welcome!

I'm Elizabeth, a park ranger for Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and I am excited for you to experience our state's unique natural resources first-hand by participating in an *I Can Camp!* workshop.

First, thank you for trying something new! I believe *I Can Camp!* is a worthwhile endeavor for your family, especially when you keep an open mind. We will provide helpful, patient and knowledgeable people to introduce you to outdoor recreation. Preparing for this adventure is very important. That's why we make it easy for you – we provide all the *I Can Camp!* forms and lists you will need to get ready. If you still have questions, please contact staff at the state park where you will be staying. Go to www.dnr.state.mn.us to find contact information.

A few things to keep in mind:

- This is meant to be a learning experience. I encourage participants to laugh at their mistakes and support the other families. Camping can be challenging, but often, it is equally rewarding. You will be camping rain or shine, so be prepared for everything from swimming to puddle-hopping.
- Ask questions – it is important you understand what is being taught. *I Can Camp!* is hands-on because doing, instead of just reading or listening, is an effective way to learn.
- I encourage you to really explore. Learn about animals living in the park, identify different tree species, and try a new activity, like birding or geocaching. Most state parks have visitor centers where you can learn even more about the park's history and geology.
- And as always, be safe. Be aware of park rules by talking to park staff, reading bulletins and paying attention to signs. Guidelines are in place to ensure the preservation of Minnesota State Parks and Trails. Thank you, in advance, for your willingness to cooperate.

Ok! Have fun roasting marshmallows and meeting new people. I hope this experience will inspire you to continue exploring state parks, seeking out new adventures, and of course, to finally say – “I can camp!”

-Ranger Elizabeth



A Partnership Program