

Ivan

Age level: 11-14

Saint Louis County

Writing Contest

My Camping Trip to Cuiver River

Last fall my Dad, Mom, brothers and I went to a park located near Troy Missouri, called Cuiver River State Park. We were supposed to take a Caribbean Cruise but because of Covid-19 and the restrictions that we had to adhere to, my dad wanted our family to go on a trip with our camper instead. We needed to fix and paint the camper in order for it to be in tip top shape. It took us almost two weeks to finish working on it and the time we spent fixing it up was so very rewarding. First, we painted the entire camper white, then we painted one blue stripe on the entrance side. Lastly, we cleaned the inside of the camper and turned on the ozone cleaner, which is designed to get rid of any bacteria that may have been residing there because it sat unopened for so long.

It was a long drive getting to the park and by the time we arrived, it was already past nightfall. On this trip, we brought our cousin Akia. I was sure that we would all have a blast, just being together in the great outdoors. It took us about one hour to get the camper all set up and by the time we were finished, we were all exhausted. So, most of us just slept in our clothes and didn't changing into our PJ's that night.

The next morning, we started a small fire and participated in a nature scavenger hunt that the park was hosting. The nature hunt was very difficult so after our second finding, we all just gave up. One of my favorite parts of the trip was when my cousin, brothers, and I started playing

in the woods and my younger brothers Ira, slipped and fell off of a stump and began acting as though he had amnesia. My brothers and I still laugh about that today.

That night was very cold. Mom and Dad told us to get extra covers so that we wouldn't get hypothermia. The next morning, around 7:00am, my dad helped us start another fire and we ended up eating s'mores for breakfast, and hotdogs and hamburgers for lunch, which were so delicious. Before we left, we kids went into the woods and started screaming and yelling for no reason at all. I think the other campers thought we were a bunch of crazy kids.

We spent two days camping at the park and it was adventurous because my dad taught us how to chop logs. One night we heard movement just outside of our camper door and it turned out to be a huge raccoon in our trash bag scavenging for food. It was fun because we got to roast marshmallows every night and we stayed up talking almost all night long.

The reason why I really liked that camping trip was because I had fun with my family, even through the weird parts. This camping trip was one of the most special trips that I took in 2020. I am so glad that I live in a state that has great parks.