

Instead of inching along the highway for eight weekend hours to get to a crowded beach, or flying eight hours to get to a crowded theme park, try a staycation this year. It is not only a very simple task, but you can be sure your grandkids will enjoy it just as much as trying to see the guy dressed as Mickey and getting sick on the roller coaster.

Have the kids help you to pitch a tent in the backyard. Line the inside ground with blankets and equip everyone with sleeping bags or inflated mattresses. Take the kids to the local store and have them choose whatever they want for the overnight camping experience.



When you're all settled in at dusk, start a campfire and cook your dinner in pans. In the morning, do the same for breakfast. Steaks, chicken parts, hot dogs, bacon, eggs or whatever the kids want. Carve tree branches into sticks for toasting marshmallows and hot dogs.

Forget the world outside, and in fact, also, for just those fun hours, forget TV, computers, twitter, cell phones and any other kind of electricity. Sit around the campfire and have all tell spooky stories, jokes and sing songs. If it rains, retreat into the tent, light a candle and have the same fun to the beat of the rain on the canvas.

OK, you're permitted to have one modern item. Bring your camera, still or video, and record this memorable night that will bring you and your family joy for years.