

Activity Highlight: Indoor Campfire

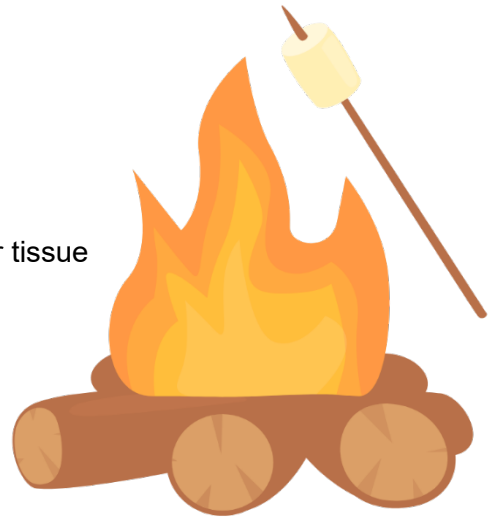
Bring the magic of campfires indoors! This activity blends hands-on fun with social skill-building. Young people will make S'mores Trail Mix, gather around an indoor campfire, and practice important Boys Town social skills.

This activity is suggested by WYEN Summer STEM Mentors at Goshen County's Summer BREAK: Ashley Baros, Jada Floyd, Maisie Baros, and Mia Saucedo. They brought creativity, curiosity, and community connection to their roles. Learn about their experience at wyoenrichmentnetwork.org.

Facilitator Instructions

Materials Needed

- Materials for Campfire: Flashlights, paper flames, or tissue paper
- Optional: Blankets, chairs, or cardboard for "tent" building
- Large bowl & spoon for mixing
- Cups or small bags for serving
- Ingredients for S'mores Trail Mix:
 - Cinnamon Toast Crunch
 - Mini marshmallows
 - Chocolate chips



Tip from Mia with Summer BREAK: Balance digital skills with hands-on problem-solving: "Kids these days are used to 'T'—technology."

Set-Up

- Create the Campfire: Place flashlights under red/orange/yellow tissue paper or paper flames in the center of the room.
- Arrange Seating: Circle chairs, beanbags, or mats around the fire.
- Mix & Serve Trail Mix: Invite the young people to scoop their own mix into a cup or bag.

Activity Flow

Welcome (5 minutes)

Gather everyone around the campfire and introduce the theme: “Today we’re camping inside! We’ll share snacks, practice friendship skills, and enjoy campfire fun.”

Snack Time (10 minutes)

Make and enjoy S’mores Trail Mix together.

Social Skill Spotlight: Introducing Yourself (10 minutes)

Use the Boys Town Social Skill steps:

- Look at the person and smile.
- Use a pleasant voice.
- Say, “Hi, my name is...”
- Shake hands (if appropriate).
- When leaving, say, “It was nice to meet you, [name].”

Tip: Model first with a volunteer, then let the young people practice around the circle.

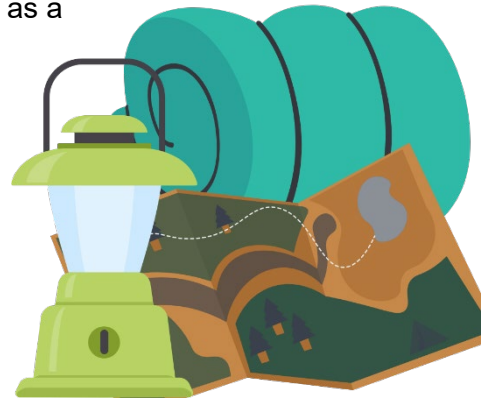
Note from Jada with Summer BREAK: Approach every day as a new opportunity: “Every day was different, and seeing how much the kids learned and grew, both in confidence and curiosity, was genuinely fulfilling. It gave me a deeper appreciation for the kind of impact we can have when we create space for kids to explore, ask questions, and just be themselves.”

Campfire Fun (10 minutes)

Go around the circle and have everyone share:

- Their name
- A favorite snack, hobby, or fun fact
- Optional: Tell short campfire stories, sing a song, or play “Would You Rather?”

Tip from Ashley with Summer BREAK: Find new uses for recycled materials: “There is so much creating we can do with everyday items,” she said. “STEM is everywhere!”



Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

Thank everyone for participating. Remind them that just like in campfire building, friendships grow stronger when we practice skills together.

Extra Credit

Add STEM Fun: Pair with a fire safety talk or “Fire Bubbles” experiment!

Thanks to WYEN Summer STEM Mentors Ashley Baros, Jada Floyd, Maisie Baros, and Mia Saucedo for this great suggestion!

