

Before the cold weather returns, escape the land of subways and skyscrapers, and spend the night where you can see the stars. Here's how.

By Marissa Conrad

ALDER LAKE



Trade in your studio for a sleeping bag (or, OK, a cabin with a bed and shower) at these nearby campsites.

ALDER LAKE

This Catskills destination is home to seven sites (look for round yellow markers stamped DEC, for Department of Environmental Conservation) and a satisfying but doable 3-mile hiking loop around the clear blue lake. Get there: About 3 hours from midtown Manhattan by car. www.dec.ny.gov



NEW YORK Here's something

BIVOUAC

vou never knew vou've alwavs wanted to do: an "urban camping

experience" in which a group of New Yorkers spends the night in tents on a Brooklyn rooftop, sans phones. literally above it all. It's the brainchild of artist Thomas Stevenson, who wanted to explore what you can do with your "domestic hours" besides coming home from work, eating, and watching TV. The next sleepovers are late this month; keep an eye on bivouacnyc.com. Free

DEER HAVEN CAMP-GROUND & CABINS

While you could rough it (tent sites start at \$20/night), you don't have to: Log cabins (\$845/week) come with beds. full bathrooms with towels. kitchenettes, and even Wi-Fi. Make friends with other campers at the pavilion, which houses a volleyball court. horseshoes, and a bonfire pit. Get there: About 5 hours via bus. oneontacampground.com

MALOUF'S **MOUNTAIN SUNSET** CAMPGROUNDS

This "fully catered camping resort" in Beacon picks you up from the train and transports your bags as you hike. They have bare-bones sites (from \$48/night), but for a fee, they provide a tent, food, showersit's camping on Easy Mode. Get there: 90 minutes on Metro-North, maloufsmountain.com



HARRIMAN STATE PARK NYC's closest camping area boasts 200 miles of trails and 31 akes. For hikers.

Beaver Pond (camping \$15/ night) is a 12-mile walk from the train. Or catch the shuttle (\$5) from Tuxedo station to Sebago Cabin Camp, where cabins start at \$240/week. Get there: 1 hour via NJ Transit. nysparks.com

KITTATINNY **CAMPGROUNDS**

At Kittatinny, you can drive in, pop the trunk, and pitch a tent alongside a trout stream winding through the forest (tent site \$11/night, plus \$15/person). An adventure center next door offers ziplining, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, paintballing, and more. Get there: 2 hours by car from midtown Manhattan, kittatinny.com

DISCOVER OUTDOORS **CAMPING TRIPS**

If you'd like a guide for your woodland adventure, hook up with Discover Outdoors, offering everything from local camping trips to Mt. Everest climbs, "They'll even pick you up and drop you off in NYC," says Jess Davis, the owner of Folk Rebellion (folkrebellion .com), a store in upstate NY that promotes offline pursuits and "digital detox" trips. discoveroutdoors.com



Get this gear in your (camp) sites



Off the Grid tote, \$75,

Brooklyn's Gear to Go Outfitters rents

M8 Gloss Water Bottle,

<u>Camp</u> <u>Sleeping Bag,</u> \$70, L.L. Bean

\$15, Poler x Mizu

The Two Man Tent, \$262, Polei

Three steps to the perfect s'more



Tear open the marshmallow to create what looks like a taco shell.



Tuck squares of chocolate into the opening, then seal by sticking a skewer through the outside edges.

Toast over flames so the chocolate melts as the 'mallow browns. Sandwich between graham crackers.

TRENDINGNY SEPTEMBER 47 ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL BYERS