

Road Trip!

You and your group have decided to take a road trip to a national park of your choosing. Your group has borrowed an empty teardrop trailer and an efficient tow vehicle that gets 20 miles to the gallon while pulling the teardrop trailer.

The Idea

Visit Matt & Jessica Ryan's website:

<http://www.jessicaryanphotography.com/DigitalScrapbook/Alaska2009/AboutTheCar.htm>

Divide the days of their travels up between each group member. After each group member has read his/her section of the story, report back to the group. Remember the details of their trip & what items they needed to travel. You're planning a trip of your own!

The Task

1. Your Group is to plan a 5 day camping trip to a national park complete with a
 - a. Daily travel schedule
 - b. 5 day Menu with 3 meals per day
 - c. list of items needed to camp
 - d. budget
 - e. other travel expenses
2. Like many travelers, you want to share your camping experience with your friends and family when you return. To best do this, you will create a photo album of your adventures – complete with things you saw and did along the way and descriptions of the fun things you did on the trip.

The Process

Your teacher will give your group a budget. This money has to cover all of your expenses for transportation, additional lodging, fuel, food, sightseeing, and equipment. You should use as close to your entire budget that you can without going over budget (after all, it is hard to spend money that you don't have isn't it?).

Your group trip will start at your school, go to the National Park, and return to your school in 5 days.

Roles:

Budget Manager: This person will keep an organized spreadsheet of the expenses of the trip. Expenses should be organized into categories (such as: food, lodging, transportation, sightseeing, equipment) with totals for each category and a total of all expenses combined.

Equipment & Safety Manager: Your borrowed teardrop trailer comes with none of the items needed to camp. You will need to make a list of everything your group will need to successfully camp for 5 days. Example items: sleeping bags, stoves, First-aid kit, bug spray, dishes, extra tent for those not sleeping in the trailer, lanterns, pots and pans, etc. Once you have made your list, you will need to shop for these items and report your expenses back to your budget manager. You will need to negotiate your spending with your budget manager.

Outfitting Manager: You will need to plan a menu for your group. Count on 3 meals a day for 5 days. Remember to keep your foods simple but varied (you don't want boring food). Once your menu is made, shop for the items on your

list and report your spending to your budget manager. You will need to negotiate your spending with your budget manager.

Driver – You will need to determine the map route that your group will take on its way to the National Park and back. This means that you determine which roads to take, any sightseeing stops along the way and at the National Park, and how much fuel you will need to get to and from the National Park. Once you determine how much fuel your group will need, report the amount of money the fuel will cost (using current fuel prices) to your budget manager. You'll also need to report any sightseeing stops that cost money to your budget manager. You will need to negotiate your spending with your budget manager.

Research:

You may choose to meet as a group at first to determine a rough plan for your trip and what the group would like to do, eat, and have along with them on the trip.

Individually, work on the requirements of your role area. If you find something that will help another member of your group, pass it along to them.

Resources – These are not all of the places to find information that will help you with your trip planning but they are a great place to start your research.

- [National Park Service](#)
- [Google Maps](#)
- [REI](#)
- [Teardrop & Tiny Trailer Forum](#)
- [Camp-Cook.com](#)
- [MS Excel Travel Budget Template](#)

Building the Trip:

After each person has completed their role, meet again as a group to determine your final balanced budget and discuss the practicality of what you each have planned. One of the traits of teardrop campers is that the things they take with them are small, light, and useful. If you have items on your list that don't fit that description your group may want to find solutions (example: instead of a big water pot take a collapsible backpacking water pot instead). Good questions to ask as a group:

- Can we carry all of the items on the list that we need to purchase?
- Do we need everything on this list?
- What if the tow vehicle breaks down?
- Do we have enough food?

Adjustment:

After this group meeting, each individual will adjust his/her work to better fit what the group discussed in Trip Building. Any changes to the shopping plans should be reported to the budget manager.

The Photo Album:

Your last step is to make your photo album of your group's trip. Your album should be 3-5 pages long (8.5" x 11" paper). This album should include:

- Your daily itinerary
- Photos of your group, the things you saw while traveling, and at the National Park
- Short descriptions explaining what each photo's significance is.

Evaluation

Your group is graded in four areas:

1. *Group Cooperation and Participation:* How well did you help each other? Did you listen to what each group member had to say? Were you able to responsibly and cooperatively negotiate your budget together?
2. *Data Sheets:* Your group will need to turn in the following work WITH your photo album – Your trip itinerary, trip budget, and a short description of each group member's role and what they ACTUALLY did during this project. Questions to ask of these Data sheets – Is the spreadsheet well organized into different categories? Is the spreadsheet detailed? Is everything typed with proper spelling and grammar? Does your itinerary give a detailed description of your trip?
3. *Photo Album* – Is your album well organized and attractive? Do all the photos have descriptions? Do the photos accurately portray what you did on your trip?

Conclusion

You may be surprised how much work goes into planning a camping trip. There are also a lot of hidden costs to planning a trip like this aren't there? If you were wise with your money, you will find that you can have a lot of fun without spending a lot of money.

Next time your teacher plans a field trip, you can help!