



# Safari Adventure Camp

Denboree 2026 • Complete Den Scouter Resource Guide



*Safari Adventure Camp — Meerkats (ages 5–6)*

*Scouts South Africa | Safari theme | Day camp or parent-accompanied sleepover*

# How to Use This Guide

This offline guide consolidates the Safari Adventure Camp website into a single leader resource. It is written for Den Scouters working with Meerkats aged five to six. Use the examples as a flexible planning framework and adapt them to your venue, local policies, weather, group size, allergies, and available adult support.

**Essential safety reminder:** Every sleepover Meerkat must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian. Children may not camp independently at this age. No child electronics and no alcohol are permitted at camp.

## Guide Sections

- Camp overview and the six Safari activity zones
- Detailed games, nature activities, water activities, crafts, cooking, and meal suggestions
- Badge requirements and Den Scouter award guidance
- Kit lists, parent communication templates, and planning workbook content
- Explorer's Lookout stories, reflection prompts, stargazing, and bedtime ideas

## Camp Overview

The Safari Adventure Camp places Meerkats in the role of young Safari Adventurers exploring the savanna, observing wildlife, developing camping and bushcraft skills, making useful keepsakes, preparing food, and earning badges. The framework works for either a day camp or a parent-accompanied sleepover.

| Zone                    | Purpose                                    | Examples                                           |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Lion's Den              | Big, active games and teamwork             | Relays, tag, obstacle challenges                   |
| Elephant's Trail        | Nature exploration and discovery           | Tracks, bugs, plants, camouflage                   |
| Hippo's Oasis           | Cooling off and water play                 | Balloon toss, sponge relay, shallow-water crossing |
| Monkey's Munchies       | Cooking, nutrition, and food preparation   | Eggs in a bag, wraps, braai, snack making          |
| Crafty Chameleon Corner | Keepsakes and community service            | T-shirts, masks, dioramas, crafts                  |
| Explorer's Lookout      | Stories, stargazing, songs, and reflection | Campfire stories, quiet time, bedtime routine      |

## Safari Camp Quick-Use Planning Guide

This section is a practical planning aid added to the original guide. It does not replace the detailed activity instructions that follow. Use it to choose activities quickly, pack once, and build a programme suited to your Den.

### 1. Activity Selection at a Glance

Choose a mixture of active, discovery, creative, food, water, and quiet activities. For Meerkats aged 5–6, alternate high-energy activities with calmer activities and build in water, shade, food, and toilet breaks.

#### Lion's Den — Active Games

| Activity                     | Time       | Group        | Planning note               |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Cheetah Run Relay            | 15 minutes | Whole group  | Active; adapt pace for 5–6s |
| Monkey Dodge                 | 15 minutes | Whole group  | Active; adapt pace for 5–6s |
| Zebra Tail Tag               | 15 minutes | Whole group  | Active; adapt pace for 5–6s |
| Elephant Herding             | 15 minutes | Whole group  | Active; adapt pace for 5–6s |
| Crocodile Swamp Crossing     | 15 minutes | Whole group  | Active; adapt pace for 5–6s |
| Lion Freeze Dance            | 15 minutes | Whole group  | Active; adapt pace for 5–6s |
| Safari Rescue Relay          | 15 minutes | Whole group  | Active; adapt pace for 5–6s |
| Cheetah Chase Tag            | 15 minutes | Whole group  | Active; adapt pace for 5–6s |
| Elephant Water Relay         | 15 minutes | Whole group  | Active; adapt pace for 5–6s |
| Monkey Vine Obstacle Course  | 20 minutes | Whole group  | Active; adapt pace for 5–6s |
| Lion Pride Team Hunt         | 15 minutes | Whole group  | Active; adapt pace for 5–6s |
| Exlorper Rescue Mission      | 20 minutes | Small groups | Active; adapt pace for 5–6s |
| Zebra Stripe Shuffle         | 10 minutes | Whole group  | Active; adapt pace for 5–6s |
| Build the Safari Camp        | 20 minutes | Small groups | Active; adapt pace for 5–6s |
| Safari Supply Scavenger Race | 20 minutes | Whole group  | Active; adapt pace for 5–6s |

#### Elephant's Trail — Nature & Discovery

| Activity                   | Time          | Group                 | Planning note                         |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Animal Track Detectives    | 30-45 minutes | Small groups (4-6)    | Nature observation; keep groups small |
| Jungle Leaf Explorers      | 30-40 minutes | Pairs or small groups | Nature observation; keep groups small |
| Safari Waterhole Explorers | 30-45 minutes | Groups of 4-6         | Nature observation; keep groups small |
| Bug Safari                 | 30-45 minutes | Pairs or small groups | Nature observation; keep groups small |
| Giraffe Tree Study         | 30-45 minutes | Small groups (4-6)    | Nature observation; keep groups small |
| Camouflage Safari          | 30-45 minutes | Whole group or small  | Nature observation; keep groups       |

| Activity                    | Time          | Group                 | Planning note                         |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                             |               | groups                | small                                 |
| Safari Nest Builders        | 40-50 minutes | Pairs or small groups | Nature observation; keep groups small |
| Sounds of the Savanna       | 30-45 minutes | Whole group           | Nature observation; keep groups small |
| Mini Beast Habitat Builders | 45-60 minutes | Small groups (3-4)    | Nature observation; keep groups small |
| Safari Seed Explorers       | 30-40 minutes | Pairs or small groups | Nature observation; keep groups small |

**Hippo's Oasis — Water**

| Activity                 | Time          | Group                       | Planning note                     |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Water Balloon Toss       | 15 minutes    | Pairs                       | Water activity; close supervision |
| Sponge Relay Race        | 15 minutes    | Teams of 4-6                | Water activity; close supervision |
| Water Dart Tag           | 20 minutes    | Whole group                 | Water activity; close supervision |
| Crocodile Swamp Crossing | 20-30 minutes | Whole group (one at a time) | Water activity; close supervision |

**Monkey's Munchies — Food**

| Activity                                    | Time          | Group                         | Planning note                            |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Ostrich Eggs in a Bag                       | 20–25 minutes | Pairs with an adult           | Adult-led heat/food safety as applicable |
| Safari Flapjacks or Leopard Spots Flapjacks | 25–35 minutes | Small groups of 4–6           | Adult-led heat/food safety as applicable |
| Monkey Fruit Skewers                        | 15–20 minutes | Pairs or small groups         | Adult-led heat/food safety as applicable |
| Lion Paw Sandwiches                         | 20–30 minutes | Small groups of 4–6           | Adult-led heat/food safety as applicable |
| Snake Roll                                  | 20–25 minutes | Whole Burrow or groups of 4–6 | Adult-led heat/food safety as applicable |
| Herbivore Wraps                             | 15–20 minutes | Pairs or small groups         | Adult-led heat/food safety as applicable |
| Waterhole Stew                              | 60–90 minutes | Whole camp meal               | Adult-led heat/food safety as applicable |
| Safari Braai                                | 45–60 minutes | Whole camp meal               | Adult-led heat/food safety as applicable |
| Campfire Damper (Bread)                     | 30–40 minutes | Pairs with an adult           | Adult-led heat/food safety as applicable |
| Trail Tracker Treats                        | 10–15 minutes | Pairs or small groups         | Adult-led heat/food safety as applicable |
| Safari S'mores                              | 15–20 minutes | Pairs with an adult           | Adult-led heat/food safety as applicable |

| Activity            | Time                                 | Group               | Planning note                            |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Elephant Poo Treats | 30 minutes, plus 30 minutes chilling | Small groups of 4–6 | Adult-led heat/food safety as applicable |

### Crafty Chameleon Corner — Crafts

| Activity                 | Time     | Group                  | Planning note                       |
|--------------------------|----------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Safari Explorer T-Shirts | Flexible | Whole group / stations | Fine-motor craft; allow drying time |
| Binoculars Craft         | Flexible | Individual             | Simple recycled-material craft      |
| Animal Masks             | Flexible | Individual             | Pre-cut for younger Meerkats        |
| Safari Animal Footprints | Flexible | Small groups           | Links naturally to animal tracking  |
| Savanna Diorama          | Flexible | Small groups           | Good longer craft / display project |

### Explorer's Lookout — Quiet & Reflection

| Activity                  | Time      | Group       | Planning note                           |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Campfire Stories          | 5–15 min  | Whole group | Quiet transition or evening activity    |
| Stargazing                | 15–30 min | Whole group | Weather and darkness dependent          |
| Safari Songs              | 10–20 min | Whole group | Use as transitions or campfire activity |
| Reflection Time           | 10–15 min | Whole group | End-of-day calm activity                |
| Bedtime Stories & Routine | 15–20 min | Whole group | Use as part of sleepover routine        |

## 2. Master Equipment List

Use this as the camp-level packing list. Check the detailed activity instructions for quantities and any special requirements before purchasing or packing.

| Category                      | Core resources                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Camp management</b>        | First aid kit; emergency contacts; attendance sheets; rosters; badge tracking; incident forms; programme plan; whistles; emergency lighting; water and shade arrangements                                                                             |
| <b>General activity kit</b>   | Cones/markers; soft balls; rope; hoops or floor markers; scarves/ribbons; paper plates or foam mats; buckets; baskets; cardboard boxes; blankets; recycled boxes/tubes; tape                                                                          |
| <b>Nature &amp; discovery</b> | Magnifying glasses; clipboards; paper/nature journals; crayons/coloured pencils; track cards; toy safari animals; baskets/bags; bug viewers; seeds; recycled pots; soil; spray bottles                                                                |
| <b>Water zone</b>             | Water balloons; spray bottles/water guns; sponges; buckets; towels; shallow paddling pool or marked shallow area; stable non-slip stepping platforms where used                                                                                       |
| <b>Cooking &amp; food</b>     | Ingredients for selected recipes; bowls; cups; plates; serving utensils; child-safe skewers/straws; cooking pots/pans; spatulas/tongs; cutting board; food-storage containers; fuel/heat source; cleaning supplies; handwashing supplies              |
| <b>Crafts</b>                 | Plain light-coloured t-shirts; fabric paint/markers; animal stencils; paintbrushes/sponges; paper plates; scissors; glue/tape; string/yarn; cardboard/toilet rolls; paint/markers; shoeboxes; natural/craft materials; newspaper/plastic table covers |
| <b>Explorer's Lookout</b>     | Lanterns/low lighting; story props; blankets/cushions; music player/speaker if used; song materials; optional stargazing aids                                                                                                                         |

### 3. Activity Support Guide for 5–6-Year-Olds

The labels below are planning aids, not new programme requirements. Use the detailed activity safety notes and your own venue risk assessment when deciding what to run.

| Support level                 | Use it when...                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lower adult support</b>    | Simple movement, songs, basic crafts, leaf/seed observation, reflection and some scavenger activities. Adults still supervise throughout.                                    |
| <b>Moderate adult support</b> | Obstacle courses, nature exploration, water games, team challenges and crafts involving scissors, glue or shared equipment.                                                  |
| <b>Higher adult support</b>   | Cooking, campfire activities, hot food/water, swimming or shallow-water activities, climbing/challenging equipment, and any activity requiring close individual supervision. |

### 4. Badge Planning at Camp

The original guide already identifies four Safari-focused badge opportunities. Plan evidence as the activity happens and record each Meerkat's completed requirements rather than trying to reconstruct everything afterwards.

| Badge                      | Best opportunities in this guide                                                                                           |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Little Camper Badge</b> | Camping, bush kitchen preparation, washing up, safari walk, tidiness, campfire songs and stargazing.                       |
| <b>Cooking Badge</b>       | Food hygiene and safety, bush cooking, Safari Breakfast in a Bag or Explorer Bread, snacks and sweet treats with an adult. |
| <b>Eco-Warrior Badge</b>   | Savanna plants, wildlife observation and an African animal study.                                                          |
| <b>Bug Hunter Badge</b>    | Spiders/insects, butterfly life cycle, mosquito-bite prevention, bug hotel, bee life cycle and a favourite bug study.      |

### 5. Sample Programme Builder

These examples are starting points only. Adjust for the venue, weather, group size, meal times and the activities your Den has the resources to run.

| Format                              | Example flow                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Planning note                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2-hour Safari Adventure</b>      | Welcome & burrow setup (10 min) → Cheetah Run Relay (15) → Animal Track Detectives (30) → Snack / water break (15) → Safari Ranger T-Shirts (25) → Safari Songs or Reflection (10) → pack-up (15).              | Mixes movement, nature, craft and a calm ending.                                                 |
| <b>Half-day Safari Camp</b>         | Welcome (10) → Lion's Den activity (15) → Elephant's Trail activity (30–40) → snack/water break (15) → craft (30) → lunch (30) → Hippo's Oasis activity (15–20) → Explorer's Lookout reflection (10) → pack-up. | Good for a morning or afternoon camp block.                                                      |
| <b>Full-day Safari Camp</b>         | Morning: welcome, active game, nature activity and craft. Midday: lunch and rest/shade. Afternoon: water activity, cooking/snack activity and team challenge. Finish with songs/reflection and badge check-in.  | Rotate energy levels rather than running several high-energy games consecutively.                |
| <b>Parent-accompanied sleepover</b> | Arrival and setup → active welcome game → nature activity → dinner/cooking → campfire songs/stories → stargazing → bedtime routine → breakfast → morning activity → pack-up and closing badge recognition.      | Use the original parent/guardian participation and safety requirements for the sleepover format. |

## 6. Simple Programme-Building Rules

- Alternate active and quiet activities where possible.
- Build water, shade, toilet and snack breaks into the programme instead of treating them as interruptions.
- Use small groups for nature discovery, crafts and cooking where this makes supervision easier.
- Keep adult-led heat, water and food activities clearly separated from the child work area.
- Allow extra transition time for 5–6-year-olds. A programme that looks perfect on paper may need more time once children are moving between zones.
- Keep a few short backup activities ready for weather changes or delays.
- Use badge evidence naturally during activities and record completion while it is fresh.

## 7. Quick Camp Safety Reminder

The detailed guide remains the authority for the activity-specific safety notes. At minimum, remember the camp-wide requirements already stated in the guide: sleepover Meerkats must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian; children need close supervision; water activities require multiple adults and shallow, controlled water; cooking and hot equipment are adult-managed; and the camp should provide hydration, shade and weather-aware programme changes.

# Lion's Den — Big, Active Games and Challenges



*Cheetah Run Relay*



*Monkey Dodge*



*Safari Rescue Relay*

## Lion's Den

Big, active games and challenges

### Zone Overview

Lion's Den is designed for high-energy, active games that get Meerkats moving and excited. These activities are perfect for burning off energy, building teamwork, and having lots of fun. All games are designed to be inclusive and adaptable for different activity levels.

### Cheetah Run Relay

15 minutes • Whole group

**Description:** A high-energy relay race where Meerkats run like different safari animals. Split into burrows (teams) and have each child sprint like a cheetah, lumber like an elephant, or leap like a gazelle. This activity builds speed, coordination, and teamwork.

**Materials Needed:** Cones or markers for start/finish lines

Optional: animal cards for reference

#### Instructions:

Divide Meerkats into 2-4 burrows (teams)

Mark a start and finish line about 20-30 meters apart

Call out an animal, and the first person from each team runs to the finish line mimicking that animal's movement

First team to have all members complete the relay wins

Vary the animals: cheetah (fast sprint), elephant (slow lumber), gazelle (bouncy leaps), giraffe (tall strides)

**Safety Tips:** Ensure running area is clear of obstacles

Supervise closely to prevent collisions

Have a cool-down period after the race

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** For younger or less active groups, reduce the distance

Use a walk instead of a run for safety

## Monkey Dodge

15 minutes • Whole group

**Description:** A dodgeball-style game where soft balls or balloons are 'coconuts' being thrown by Scouters. Meerkats must dodge while running across the play area. If hit, they freeze until a teammate tags them free. This develops agility, awareness, and cooperation.

**Materials Needed:** Soft balls or balloons (at least 3-4)

Cones to mark play area boundaries

**Instructions:**

Create a rectangular play area

Scouters stand in the middle or sides with soft balls/balloons

Meerkats try to cross from one side to the other without being hit

If hit, they freeze in place until a free teammate tags them

Continue until all Meerkats have crossed or are frozen

**Safety Tips:** Use only soft balls or balloons

Throw gently and underhand

Ensure no hard objects are in the play area

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Reduce throwing force for very young children

Use larger, softer targets

Increase the play area size

## Zebra Tail Tag

15 minutes • Whole group

**Description:** Each Meerkat tucks a scarf or strip of cloth in their waistband as their 'tail.' Other zebras try to steal tails. The last Meerkat with a tail left wins. This game encourages running, quick reflexes, and strategic thinking.

**Materials Needed:** Scarves, ribbons, or cloth strips (one per child)

Open play area

**Instructions:**

Give each Meerkat a scarf or cloth strip to tuck in their waistband

On 'Go,' Meerkats try to steal other children's tails while protecting their own

If someone's tail is stolen, they sit out or continue without a tail

Last person with a tail wins

Play multiple rounds so everyone gets a turn

**Safety Tips:** Ensure scarves are tucked securely so they don't become tripping hazards

Supervise to prevent rough play

Clear the play area of obstacles

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** For less active groups, make it a walking game instead of running

Allow children to rejoin if their tail is stolen

## Elephant Herding

15 minutes • Whole group

**Description:** Meerkats work together as a herd to roll balls (melons) from one side of the play area to the other and into a 'watering hole' (marked area). This teaches teamwork, coordination, and communication.

**Materials Needed:** 4-6 soft balls or playground balls

Cones to mark the watering hole

Open play area

**Instructions:**

Mark a starting line and a 'watering hole' (goal area) about 20-30 meters away

Place balls at the starting line

Meerkats work together to roll or kick the balls to the watering hole

They can use their feet or hands (depending on ball size)

Time how long it takes to get all balls to the goal

Play multiple rounds to see if they can beat their time

**Safety Tips:** Ensure balls are soft and safe

Supervise to prevent kicking accidents

Clear the path of obstacles

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Use larger balls for easier handling

Reduce the distance for younger children

Allow children to carry balls instead of rolling them

## Crocodile Swamp Crossing

15 minutes • Whole group

**Description:** Meerkats must cross a 'swamp' by stepping only on lily pads (paper plates or mats) without touching the ground. This develops balance, coordination, and problem-solving as they figure out how to help each other across.

**Materials Needed:** Paper plates or foam mats (at least 12-15)

Open space

**Instructions:**

Scatter paper plates or mats across the play area to create a path

Meerkats must cross from one side to the other using only the plates

If they touch the ground, they must start over or go back to the beginning

Encourage them to help each other and work as a team

Create multiple paths for different difficulty levels

**Safety Tips:** Ensure plates are secure and won't slip

Supervise to prevent falls

Have a soft landing area nearby

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Use larger, more stable mats for younger children

Create a wider path with more plates

Allow children to hold hands for balance

## Lion Freeze Dance

15 minutes • Whole group

**Description:** Meerkats stomp, roar, and run to safari sounds or drumming. When the music stops, they must freeze like a lion statue. This combines music, movement, and fun while teaching listening skills.

**Materials Needed:** Speaker or drum

Safari sounds or drumming audio (optional)

Open space

**Instructions:**

Play safari sounds, drumming, or any upbeat music

Meerkats move around the space, stomping, roaring, and running like lions

When the music stops, they freeze in a lion pose

Anyone who moves after freezing stays frozen for one round (or sits out one round)

Restart the music and continue

Play several rounds

**Safety Tips:** Ensure enough space so children don't collide

Use volume that's loud enough to hear but not overwhelming

Have a clear signal for when to freeze

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Use different animal movements (elephant walk, giraffe stretch)

Allow all children to stay in even if they move

Play slower music for less active groups

## Safari Rescue Relay

15 minutes • Whole group

**Description:** A fast-paced relay where Meerkats work together to rescue stranded safari animals and return them safely to the ranger station. This activity encourages teamwork, coordination, and problem-solving while keeping everyone active.

**Materials Needed:** Toy safari animals

Buckets, baskets or cardboard boxes

Cones or markers

Masking tape

Optional: recycled cardboard obstacles and animals

**Instructions:**

Divide Meerkats into 2–4 burrows (teams)

Place the toy animals at the far end of the safari trail

Create an obstacle course using cones and boxes

One Meerkat at a time runs through the course, collects one animal, and returns it to the ranger station

Continue until every animal has been rescued

The first team to rescue all their animals wins

**Safety Tips:** Ensure obstacles are stable and safe to climb around

Leave enough space between teams to prevent collisions

Encourage careful movement rather than rushing

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Shorten the course for younger Meerkats

Use fewer obstacles for indoor play

## Cheetah Chase Tag

15 minutes • Whole group

**Description:** One Meerkat becomes the cheetah while the others are safari animals trying to reach safe watering holes. The game develops agility, speed, and quick decision-making.

**Materials Needed:** Hoops

Chalk

Rope circles

Paper plates

**Instructions:**

Place watering holes around the playing area

Choose one child to be the cheetah

The safari animals move around the area

When the leader calls 'Cheetah!', the cheetah chases the animals

Animals are safe when standing inside a watering hole

Rotate the cheetah regularly

**Safety Tips:** Keep enough space between watering holes

Watch for collisions while running

Encourage gentle tagging

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Add more/bigger watering holes for younger children

Use walking instead of running indoors

## Elephant Water Relay

15 minutes • Whole group

**Description:** Teams race to carry water from one bucket to another using sponges. The activity encourages teamwork, coordination, and careful movement.

**Materials Needed:** Buckets

Sponges

Yoghurt containers or cups

Optional: pom-poms or beanbags for indoor play

**Instructions:**

Fill one bucket with water

Place an empty bucket at the finish line

Each Meerkat carries water using a sponge

Squeeze the water into the empty bucket

Continue until time is up

The team with the most water wins

**Safety Tips:** Wipe up spills immediately

Walk carefully on wet surfaces

Keep buckets stable

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Use beanbags instead of water indoors

Reduce the distance between buckets

## Monkey Vine Obstacle Course

20 minutes • Whole group

**Description:** Meerkats climb, crawl, jump, balance, and swing through a safari-themed obstacle course. The activity develops balance, confidence, and gross motor skills.

**Materials Needed:** Rope

Pool noodles

Cones

Cardboard tunnels

Recycled boxes

**Instructions:**

Set up several obstacle stations

Demonstrate each challenge

Meerkats complete the course one at a time or in small groups

Encourage everyone to try every obstacle

Repeat for extra practice

**Safety Tips:** Ensure obstacles are secure

Provide enough space between stations

Supervise climbing activities

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Simplify difficult obstacles

Use tape lines instead of balance beams indoors

## Lion Pride Team Hunt

15 minutes • Whole group

**Description:** Burrows work together to collect food while avoiding the roaming lions. The activity promotes teamwork, strategy, and quick thinking.

**Materials Needed:** Beanbags

Soft balls

Baskets

Recycled paper balls

**Instructions:**

Scatter 'food' around the playing area

Choose one or two Meerkats to be lions

Teams collect food and return it to their basket

Lions may tag players carrying food

Tagged players return the food before continuing

The team with the most food wins

**Safety Tips:** Encourage gentle tagging

Clearly mark lion zones

Prevent overcrowding

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Reduce the playing area

Use fewer lions for younger groups

## Explorer Rescue Mission

20 minutes • Small groups

**Description:** Teams transport an injured safari animal to the wildlife clinic using a makeshift stretcher. This activity develops communication, teamwork, and careful coordination.

**Materials Needed:** Blanket or towel

Cardboard tray

Stuffed safari animal

Recycled fabric

**Instructions:**

Divide into teams

Place the stuffed animal on the stretcher

Two or more Meerkats carry the stretcher

Navigate around obstacles without dropping the animal

Reach the wildlife clinic safely

Swap roles and repeat

**Safety Tips:** Walk slowly

Use lightweight toys

Avoid lifting above waist height

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Use fewer obstacles

Carry the animal by hand if needed

## Zebra Stripe Shuffle

10 minutes • Whole group

**Description:** Meerkats move like different safari animals until the ranger calls a special action such as 'Freeze like a zebra!' The game develops listening skills and body awareness.

**Materials Needed:** Music/willing parents to sing and roar

Animal picture cards

Homemade flashcards

**Instructions:**

Play music while Meerkats move around

Call out different safari animals to imitate

Occasionally call 'Freeze like a zebra!'

Everyone freezes until the next command

Continue with different animal movements

**Safety Tips:** Keep enough space between players

Avoid fast movements indoors

Encourage controlled movements

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Slow the pace for younger Meerkats

Remove music if it becomes distracting

## Build the Safari Camp

20 minutes • Small groups

**Description:** Teams gather materials and build a pretend safari camp before time runs out. The activity encourages creativity, teamwork, and communication.

**Materials Needed:** Cardboard boxes

Blankets/Sleeping Bags

Pegs

Cardboard tubes

Fabric scraps

**Instructions:**

Divide into burrows

Scatter building materials

Give teams a time limit

Collect materials and build a safari camp

Share each team's creation

**Safety Tips:** Ensure structures are stable

Avoid climbing on shelters

Keep building materials tidy

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Provide pre-selected materials

Build smaller shelters indoors

## Safari Supply Scavenger Race

20 minutes • Whole group

**Description:** Meerkats search for hidden safari supplies needed for an expedition before racing them back to base. The activity develops observation, teamwork, and problem-solving.

**Materials Needed:** Picture clue cards

Toy binoculars

Cardboard maps

Recycled containers

Hidden safari supplies - e.g hats, bags, water bottle, bird book, binoculars etc

**Instructions:**

Hide safari supplies around the area

Give each team a map or picture clues

Teams search together for the hidden items

Return each item to base before searching again

The first team to collect every supply wins

**Safety Tips:** Clearly define the search area

Supervise outdoor searches

Avoid hiding items in unsafe locations

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Use picture clues for younger Meerkats

Hide supplies in plain sight for an easier challenge

## Tips for Running Lion's Den

Space: Ensure you have a large, open area free of obstacles

Supervision: Have multiple adults supervising to ensure safety

Energy Levels: Rotate between high-energy and moderate-energy games

Inclusivity: Adapt games so all children can participate

Water Breaks: Provide water breaks between activities

Enthusiasm: Be enthusiastic and encourage the children to have fun!

# Elephant's Trail — Adventure and Nature Exploration



Animal Track Detectives

Bug Safari

Safari Seed Explorers

## Elephant's Trail

Adventure badge activities and nature exploration

### Zone Overview

Elephant's Trail is dedicated to nature exploration and adventure badge activities. This zone encourages Meerkats to observe, discover, and learn about the African savanna ecosystem. Activities focus on developing observation skills, environmental awareness, and a love for nature.

### Animal Track Detectives

**Description:** Meerkats become detectives searching for animal tracks in sand, mud, or soft ground. They examine different tracks, compare them to identification cards, and learn about which animals made them.

**Duration:** 30-45 minutes

**Group Size:** Small groups (4-6)

**Materials Needed:** Magnifying glasses; Track identification cards; Toy animals; Clipboard and paper

**Step-by-Step Instructions:** Set up a track area with sand or soft ground; Show children different animal tracks (elephant, lion, zebra, giraffe); Let them search for and identify tracks; Compare real tracks to identification cards; Draw their findings in nature journals

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Younger children: Use pre-made tracks. Older children: Create their own track field.

**Related Badge:** This activity supports badge requirements. See the Badges page for full requirements.

## Jungle Leaf Explorers

**Description:** Children collect different leaves from around the campsite, examine their shapes, colors, and textures, and create leaf rubbings and collections.

**Duration:** 30-40 minutes

**Group Size:** Pairs or small groups

**Materials Needed:** Baskets or bags; Magnifying glasses; Crayons; Paper; Leaves from different plants

**Step-by-Step Instructions:** Take children on a leaf collection walk; Collect leaves of different shapes, sizes, and colors; Examine leaves with magnifying glasses; Make leaf rubbings with crayons and paper; Sort leaves by size, color, or shape

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Create a leaf identification chart. Press leaves for a permanent collection.

**Related Badge:** This activity supports badge requirements. See the Badges page for full requirements.

## Safari Waterhole Explorers

**Description:** Children explore a water area (or large basin), test floating and sinking objects, observe water properties, and learn about animals that visit waterholes.

**Duration:** 30-45 minutes

**Group Size:** Groups of 4-6

**Materials Needed:** Large basin or water container; Various objects (cork, stone, wood, plastic); Toy safari animals; Cups for pouring

**Step-by-Step Instructions:** Fill basin with water; Introduce toy safari animals around the waterhole; Test different objects to see what floats and sinks; Discuss why animals need water; Talk about waterhole safety for animals

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Add food coloring to water. Create animal habitats around the waterhole.

**Related Badge:** This activity supports badge requirements. See the Badges page for full requirements.

## Bug Safari

**Description:** Children search for bugs and insects outdoors using magnifying glasses and bug viewers. They observe carefully, draw what they find, and learn about different insects.

**Duration:** 30-45 minutes

**Group Size:** Pairs or small groups

**Materials Needed:** Magnifying glasses; Bug viewers or clear containers; Clipboards; Paper; Colored pencils

**Step-by-Step Instructions:** Take children on a bug hunt around the campsite; Look under rocks, logs, and plants; Observe bugs carefully without harming them; Draw bugs in nature journals; Discuss what bugs eat and where they live

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Create a bug identification chart. Release bugs gently after observation.

**Related Badge:** This activity supports badge requirements. See the Badges page for full requirements.

## Giraffe Tree Study

**Description:** Children study tall trees like giraffes do, measuring tree height, examining bark textures, collecting leaves, and comparing different trees.

**Duration:** 30-45 minutes

**Group Size:** Small groups (4-6)

**Materials Needed:** Measuring tapes or string; Clipboards; Paper; Crayons; Magnifying glasses

**Step-by-Step Instructions:** Select different trees around the campsite; Measure tree height using string or tape; Examine bark texture and patterns; Collect leaves for identification; Make bark rubbings with paper and crayons; Compare different trees

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Create a tree identification guide. Press leaves for a collection.

**Related Badge:** This activity supports badge requirements. See the Badges page for full requirements.

## Camouflage Safari

**Description:** Children search for hidden toy safari animals camouflaged in nature. They learn about animal camouflage and how animals blend into their environments.

**Duration:** 30-45 minutes

**Group Size:** Whole group or small groups

**Materials Needed:** Toy safari animals; Natural materials (leaves, branches, grass); Clipboards; Paper

**Step-by-Step Instructions:** Hide toy animals around the campsite using natural materials; Children search for hidden animals; Discuss why animals use camouflage; Compare colors and patterns of animals to their surroundings; Children can hide animals for others to find

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Make it easier by giving hints. Create a camouflage art project afterward.

**Related Badge:** This activity supports badge requirements. See the Badges page for full requirements.

## Safari Nest Builders

**Description:** Children build bird nests using natural materials like twigs, grass, leaves, and feathers. They learn about different nesting materials and bird habitats.

**Duration:** 40-50 minutes

**Group Size:** Pairs or small groups

**Materials Needed:** Twigs; Grass; Leaves; Feathers; Mud or clay; Toy eggs

**Step-by-Step Instructions:** Collect natural materials from around the campsite; Build nests in small groups; Place toy eggs in nests; Discuss different bird nesting materials and styles; Display nests and share creations

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Use clay to hold materials together. Create nests in trees or on ground.

**Related Badge:** This activity supports badge requirements. See the Badges page for full requirements.

## Sounds of the Savanna

**Description:** Children listen to nature sounds and create music with homemade instruments. They learn about animal sounds and create a savanna orchestra.

**Duration:** 30-45 minutes

**Group Size:** Whole group

**Materials Needed:** Recycled containers; Rice or beans; Sticks; Leaves; Water bottles

**Step-by-Step Instructions:** Create shakers from recycled containers with rice; Make drums from containers; Create sticks for percussion; Listen to nature sounds together; Make animal sounds and create a savanna orchestra

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Record sounds for playback. Create a nature soundscape.

**Related Badge:** This activity supports badge requirements. See the Badges page for full requirements.

## Mini Beast Habitat Builders

**Description:** Children build bug hotels and miniature habitats using cardboard, twigs, leaves, and pinecones. They create safe spaces for insects.

**Duration:** 45-60 minutes

**Group Size:** Small groups (3-4)

**Materials Needed:** Cardboard boxes; Twigs; Leaves; Pinecones; Bark; Straw; Nails or tape

**Step-by-Step Instructions:** Design a bug hotel on paper first; Collect natural materials; Build layers with different materials; Create hiding holes and spaces; Place hotel in a safe location; Observe which bugs visit

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Create different sized habitats. Monitor and document visitors.

**Related Badge:** This activity supports badge requirements. See the Badges page for full requirements.

## Safari Seed Explorers

**Description:** Children plant seeds in recycled pots, examine different seeds, water plants, and learn about plant growth and the life cycle of plants.

**Duration:** 30-40 minutes

**Group Size:** Pairs or small groups

**Materials Needed:** Seeds (beans, sunflower, peas); Recycled pots; Soil; Water; Labels; Spray bottles

**Step-by-Step Instructions:** Examine different seeds with magnifying glasses; Fill pots with soil; Plant seeds at appropriate depth; Water gently with spray bottles; Label each pot with seed type; Discuss plant growth and life cycles

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Create a plant journal to track growth. Transplant to garden later.

**Related Badge:** This activity supports badge requirements. See the Badges page for full requirements.

## Tips for Elephant's Trail

Quiet Observation: Teach children to move quietly and not disturb animals

Respect Nature: Emphasize leaving no trace and not harming plants or animals

Weather Awareness: Plan walks for cooler times of day

Supervision: Keep groups small and closely supervised

Engagement: Ask questions to encourage observation and thinking

Documentation: Have children record their findings in journals or drawings

Safety: Check for allergies and hazards before activities

Environmental Care: Always leave areas as you found them

# Hippo's Oasis — Water Games and Cooling Off



*Water Balloon Toss*

*Sponge Relay Race*

*Water Dart Tag*

## Hippo's Oasis

Fun water games and cooling off

Zone Overview

Hippo's Oasis is the perfect place for water-based activities and cooling off on hot days. These games are refreshing, fun, and help Meerkats stay active while staying cool. All activities should be supervised closely and appropriate safety measures should be in place.

### Water Balloon Toss

**Description:** Partners toss water balloons back and forth, stepping further apart after each successful catch. The team with the last unbroken balloon wins!

**Duration:** 15 minutes

**Group Size:** Pairs

**Materials Needed:** Water balloons; Towels

**Step-by-Step Instructions:** Pair up Meerkats; Give each pair a water balloon; Partners stand facing each other at a short distance; They toss the balloon back and forth; After each successful catch, both partners step back one step; If a balloon breaks, that pair is out; The last pair with an unbroken balloon wins!

**Safety Considerations:** Supervise closely, have towels ready for cleanup. Use smaller balloons for younger children.

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Start very close together. Use larger balloons for easier catching.

## Sponge Relay Race

**Description:** Teams race to fill a bucket with water using sponges. The first team to fill their bucket wins!

**Duration:** 15 minutes

**Group Size:** Teams of 4-6

**Materials Needed:** Sponges; Buckets; Water source; Towels

**Step-by-Step Instructions:** Divide into teams; Set up a water source and empty bucket for each team; Place a starting line and a bucket line; First person runs to the water source with a sponge; They soak the sponge and run back to squeeze it into their bucket; Next person goes, continuing until bucket is full; First team to fill their bucket wins!

**Safety Considerations:** Keep area clear of slipping hazards. Have towels ready. Supervise water running.

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Use smaller buckets for younger children. Shorter distances for smaller groups.

## Water Dart Tag

**Description:** Meerkats use water guns to tag each other. Tagged children sit out or join the 'water team.'

**Duration:** 20 minutes

**Group Size:** Whole group

**Materials Needed:** Water guns or spray bottles; Water supply; Towels

**Step-by-Step Instructions:** Choose 1-2 Meerkats to be 'it' with water guns; Other Meerkats try to avoid getting tagged with water; When tagged, children either sit out or join the water team; Continue until all are tagged or time runs out; Rotate who starts as 'it'

**Safety Considerations:** Use gentle water pressure, avoid faces. Have towels ready. Supervise closely.

**Adaptations for Different Groups:** Use spray bottles instead of guns for gentler play. Larger play area for more running.

## Crocodile Swamp Crossing

**Description:** A water version of the lily pad game. Meerkats must cross a "swamp" using floating platforms or stepping stones without getting wet (or getting as little wet as possible).

**Duration:** 20-30 minutes

**Group Size:** Whole group (one at a time)

**Materials Needed:** Shallow paddling pool, marked-off water area, or sprinklers; Stepping stones, foam pads, rubber mats, or sturdy floating platforms; Towels; Cones or rope to mark the start and finish

**Setup Instructions:** Create a shallow "swamp" no deeper than ankle height; Arrange the stepping stones from one side to the other; Leave enough space between platforms to provide a fun challenge; Mark start and finish lines with cones or rope

**How to Play:** Meerkats line up at the starting point; One at a time, they cross the swamp using only the stepping stones; If a foot touches the water, they continue but earn a playful "crocodile splash"; Once they reach the finish, they dry off before the next Meerkat begins; Everyone celebrates once the whole Burrow has safely crossed!

**Safety Considerations:** Water must be no deeper than ankle height; Ensure all platforms are stable and have non-slip surfaces; Position the activity on grass or another non-slip surface; Have at least two adult supervisors monitoring the activity; Have towels ready for drying off; Check platforms regularly for stability

## Cooling Off Activities: Ice Cream Social

Provide popsicles or ice cream as a refreshing treat during a break. Combine with storytelling or a quiet activity.

### Shade Break

Set up a shaded area with cool drinks and have Meerkats rest in the shade during the hottest part of the day. Use this time for quieter activities like crafts or storytelling.

### Splash Pad Play

If available, use a splash pad or shallow pool for free play and cooling off. Always supervise water activities closely.

**Important Water Safety Guidelines:** Supervision: Always have multiple adults supervising water activities; Depth: Keep water shallow and age-appropriate (ankle-deep maximum); Hydration: Ensure children drink water regularly, even during water activities; Sun Protection: Apply sunscreen before water activities; First Aid: Have a first aid kit and trained personnel nearby; Clothing: Ensure children wear appropriate clothing or swimwear; Buddy System: Use a buddy system for all water activities; No Running: Enforce a no-running rule around water areas; Gentle Play: Emphasize gentle, safe water play at all times

# Monkey's Munchies — Safari-Themed Meals and Snacks



*Ostrich Eggs in a Bag*

*Lion Paw Sandwiches*

*Safari Braai*

## Monkey's Munchies

Safari-themed meals and snacks

Zone Overview

Monkey's Munchies is where Meerkats learn about cooking, nutrition, and food preparation in a fun, safari-themed way. This zone supports the Cooking Badge and teaches valuable life skills while keeping the camp theme alive through creative food presentations and names.

## Breakfast Ideas

Start the safari day with a hands-on meal that is simple, colourful, and suitable for Meerkats to help prepare.

### Ostrich Eggs in a Bag

A fun breakfast where each Meerkat helps make an egg in a zip-lock bag before an adult cooks it in hot water.

Approx. time: 20–25 minutes

Best for: Pairs with an adult

**Ingredients & Equipment:** One egg per person; Zip-lock bags suitable for hot food; Milk and salt; Cheese and/or pre-cut vegetables; Large pot of hot water; Tongs, plates, and napkins

**Method:** Label each bag before beginning.; With adult help, crack one egg into each bag.; Add a small amount of milk, salt, cheese, or vegetables.; Seal the bag carefully, removing excess air.; An adult cooks the bags in hot water until the egg is fully set.; An adult removes and opens the bags; serve and enjoy.

**Meerkat Jobs:** Choose fillings, add pre-measured ingredients, help seal the bag, and describe what changes during cooking.

**Den Scouter & Adult Jobs:** Manage raw egg hygiene, boiling water, cooking checks, tongs, and opening the hot bags.

**Safety & Allergy Note:** Adults handle all hot water. Wash hands after raw egg handling, separate raw and ready-to-eat food, and check egg and dairy allergies beforehand.

## Safari Flapjacks or Leopard Spots Flapjacks

Make simple flapjacks and press chocolate chips onto them while warm to create playful leopard spots.

Approx. time: 25–35 minutes

Best for: Small groups of 4–6

**Ingredients & Equipment:** Prepared flapjack or pancake batter; Chocolate chips; Cooking surface and spatula; Plates and serving utensils

**Method:** Prepare the batter before children arrive at the station.; An adult cooks the flapjacks.; While each flapjack is warm, Meerkats press a few chocolate chips on top.; Allow them to cool slightly before serving.; Invite each Meerkat to count the leopard spots on their flapjack.

**Meerkat Jobs:** Add chocolate chips, count the spots, and help arrange cooled flapjacks on a serving plate.

**Den Scouter & Adult Jobs:** Manage the hot cooking surface, turning, cooling, and serving of flapjacks.

**Safety & Allergy Note:** Create a clear boundary around the heat source. Confirm dairy, egg, gluten, and chocolate allergies.

## Monkey Fruit Skewers

Thread banana, apple, and grape pieces onto child-safe skewers. Serve with yogurt for dipping.

Approx. time: 15–20 minutes

Best for: Pairs or small groups

**Ingredients & Equipment:** Banana pieces; Apple pieces; Grapes cut lengthways; Yogurt; Child-safe skewers or sturdy straws; Bowls and napkins

**Method:** Wash and prepare bite-sized fruit before the activity.; Set the fruit out in separate bowls.; Meerkats choose fruit and thread it onto child-safe skewers or straws.; Serve with a small yogurt dip.; Discuss the colours and textures while eating.

**Meerkat Jobs:** Choose fruit, thread pieces, and create a colourful pattern.

**Den Scouter & Adult Jobs:** Wash and cut fruit, halve grapes lengthways, supervise threading, and manage food storage.

**Safety & Allergy Note:** Use blunt, child-safe skewers only. Grapes must be cut lengthways. Check fruit and dairy allergies.

## Lunch Ideas

Build fun safari-themed lunches that give children a safe, meaningful role in making their own food.

### Lion Paw Sandwiches

Make normal sandwiches, then press them with a lion paw cookie cutter or create claw-like shapes for a safari lunch.

Approx. time: 20–30 minutes

Best for: Small groups of 4–6

**Ingredients & Equipment:** Bread; Chosen sandwich fillings; Lion paw cookie cutter or adult-prepared template; Plates and napkins

**Method:** Prepare the fillings and let Meerkats choose a combination.; Help each child assemble a sandwich.; Use a lion paw cutter to stamp the sandwich, or an adult creates claw-like shapes.; Serve the paws and invite children to spot the paw details.

**Meerkat Jobs:** Choose fillings, spread with supervision, assemble sandwiches, and press the cookie cutter.

**Den Scouter & Adult Jobs:** Prepare fillings, supervise food handling, and carry out any cutting with sharp equipment.

**Safety & Allergy Note:** Check allergies and keep cold fillings chilled. Adults handle knives and cutters that need force.

### Snake Roll

Each Meerkat fills a section of French loaf with ham and cheese. Put the pieces together again to form one long snake.

Approx. time: 20–25 minutes

Best for: Whole Burrow or groups of 4–6

**Ingredients & Equipment:** French loaf; Ham; Cheese; Optional prepared salad fillings; Serving board; Plates and napkins

**Method:** An adult cuts the French loaf into child-sized sections.; Set out ham, cheese, and prepared salad fillings.; Each Meerkat fills one section.; Put the pieces back together in a curved line to form a snake.; Serve the snake in sections to the group.

**Meerkat Jobs:** Fill a loaf section and help arrange the long snake shape.

**Den Scouter & Adult Jobs:** Slice the loaf, prepare fillings, supervise serving, and keep chilled ingredients cold.

**Safety & Allergy Note:** Adults use all knives. Check meat, dairy, and gluten allergies and follow safe food-storage practices.

## Herbivore Wraps

Wraps filled with lettuce, cucumber, tomato, and cheese. Tell Meerkats they are eating like plant-eating giraffes.

Approx. time: 15–20 minutes

Best for: Pairs or small groups

**Ingredients & Equipment:** Wraps; Lettuce; Cucumber; Tomato; Cheese; Optional dressing; Plates and napkins

**Method:** Wash and prepare vegetables before the activity.; Give each Meerkat a wrap.; Let children choose a small amount of each filling.; Help them fold the wrap over the fillings.; Serve and talk about the safari animals that eat plants.

**Meerkat Jobs:** Choose fillings, place them on the wrap, and fold their own wrap.

**Den Scouter & Adult Jobs:** Wash and cut vegetables, supervise serving, and help children with folding.

**Safety & Allergy Note:** Adults prepare vegetables with knives. Confirm dairy and gluten allergies and offer alternatives as needed.

## Supper Ideas

These camp-style meals give adults the lead on heat and food safety while Meerkats contribute to preparation and serving.

### Waterhole Stew

A hearty one-pot stew with potatoes, carrots, and meat—or a vegetarian alternative—perfect for campfire cooking.

Approx. time: 60–90 minutes

Best for: Whole camp meal

**Ingredients & Equipment:** Potatoes; Carrots; Meat or vegetarian alternative; Stock and seasonings; Large pot with lid; Campfire or safe cooking stove; Serving bowls and ladle

**Method:** Adults set up and manage the campfire or stove.; Prepare and cook the meat or vegetarian base safely.; Add potatoes, carrots, stock, and seasoning.; Simmer until vegetables are tender and food is thoroughly cooked.; Serve in bowls once cooled to a safe eating temperature.

**Meerkat Jobs:** Wash hands, help add pre-cut vegetables, and help set out bowls well away from the heat source.

**Den Scouter & Adult Jobs:** Handle all heat, cutting, raw meat, temperature checks, and serving from the hot pot.

**Safety & Allergy Note:** Keep Meerkats outside the fire and cooking boundary. Use separate utensils for raw and cooked food and provide a vegetarian option where required.

### Safari Braai

Braai boerewors, sosaties, or chicken. Serve with rolls, pap, or vegetables and call it a safari carnivore feast.

Approx. time: 45–60 minutes

Best for: Whole camp meal

**Ingredients & Equipment:** Boerewors, sosaties, or chicken; Rolls, pap, or vegetables; Braai grid; Tongs; Cooler for chilled food; Plates and serving utensils

**Method:** Adults prepare a safe braai area.; Keep raw meat chilled until cooking begins.; Cook food fully on the braai, turning with tongs.; Prepare rolls, pap, or vegetables alongside the braai.; Serve only once an adult has checked that the food is ready.

**Meerkat Jobs:** Help set tables, carry unopened rolls, choose prepared vegetables, and enjoy the safari meal.

**Den Scouter & Adult Jobs:** Operate the braai, manage raw meat, cook and check food, and supervise the fire boundary.

**Safety & Allergy Note:** Only adults handle the braai, grid, tongs, fire, and raw meat. Keep first-aid and fire-safety equipment nearby.

### Campfire Damper (Bread)

Mix flour, water, and a pinch of salt to make dough. Wrap it around a stick and cook it over the campfire.

Approx. time: 30–40 minutes

Best for: Pairs with an adult

**Ingredients & Equipment:** Flour; Water; Pinch of salt; Clean suitable sticks or metal roasting forks; Bowls; Campfire or safe heat source

**Method:** Mix flour, water, and salt into a workable dough.; Give each Meerkat a small portion of dough.; With adult support, wrap the dough around a clean stick or metal roasting fork.; Adults supervise cooking until the bread is cooked through.; Allow the damper to cool before eating.

**Meerkat Jobs:** Mix and shape dough, then hold their stick only with direct adult assistance and at a safe distance from the fire.

**Den Scouter & Adult Jobs:** Inspect sticks, manage the fire, supervise roasting, check cooking, and manage cooling.

**Safety & Allergy Note:** Maintain a strict fire boundary. Adults control all proximity to flames and hot sticks. Check gluten allergies and ensure dough is cooked through.

## Sweet Treats & Snacks

Choose one of these treats for a snack break, a campfire story session, or a special celebration.

### Trail Tracker Treats

Apple slices spread with peanut butter and sprinkled with granola: a simple no-cook snack Meerkats can assemble themselves.

Approx. time: 10–15 minutes

Best for: Pairs or small groups

**Ingredients & Equipment:** Apples; Peanut butter; Granola; Child-safe spreading knives; Plates and napkins

**Method:** An adult cores and thickly slices the apples.; Give each Meerkat apple slices on a plate.; Children spread a small amount of peanut butter on each slice.; Sprinkle granola on top.; Serve immediately.

**Meerkat Jobs:** Spread with a child-safe knife and sprinkle granola.

**Den Scouter & Adult Jobs:** Core and slice apples, manage portions, and provide a safe alternative where required.

**Safety & Allergy Note:** Peanut butter is not suitable where there is a nut allergy. Offer seed butter or yogurt as an alternative.

### Safari S'mores

Classic campfire s'mores with a safari twist. Tell animal stories while enjoying this special campfire treat.

Approx. time: 15–20 minutes

Best for: Pairs with an adult

**Ingredients & Equipment:** Marshmallows; Biscuits; Chocolate; Metal roasting forks; Plates and napkins

**Method:** Set up a safe adult-managed campfire cooking area.; Place chocolate on one biscuit.; Adults support each Meerkat to toast a marshmallow using a metal roasting fork.; Sandwich the warm marshmallow between biscuits.; Enjoy while sharing a short safari animal story.

**Meerkat Jobs:** Build the biscuit-and-chocolate base, share a story idea, and eat the finished treat after it has cooled.

**Den Scouter & Adult Jobs:** Manage the fire, supervise each roasting fork, and check food temperature before serving.

**Safety & Allergy Note:** Adults maintain the fire boundary and supervise all toasting. Check for gluten, dairy, and marshmallow ingredient allergies.

### Elephant Poo Treats

A playful no-bake chocolate biscuit-ball treat. This recipe makes approximately 20–24 balls, ideal for sharing with the Burrow.

Approx. time: 30 minutes, plus 30 minutes chilling

Best for: Small groups of 4–6

**Ingredients & Equipment:** 250 g Marie biscuits, crushed; 2–3 tbsp cocoa powder; ½ tin (about 200 g) sweetened condensed milk; 1 tsp vanilla essence (optional); ½ cup desiccated coconut for the mixture (optional); Extra coconut, cocoa powder, or sprinkles for rolling

**Method:** Crush biscuits into fine crumbs.; Mix in cocoa powder.; Stir in condensed milk and vanilla, if using, until a firm dough forms.; If too dry, add a little more condensed milk; if too sticky, add biscuit crumbs.; Roll tablespoon-sized portions into balls.; Roll each ball in coconut, cocoa powder, or sprinkles.; Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes until firm.

**Meerkat Jobs:** Help crush biscuits in a sealed bag, stir with supervision, roll the mixture into balls, and choose a coating.

**Den Scouter & Adult Jobs:** Measure ingredients, supervise hygiene and mixing, refrigerate the treats, and serve suitable portions.

**Safety & Allergy Note:** Check dairy, gluten, and coconut allergies. Keep the treats refrigerated until serving and ensure children wash hands before preparing food.

### Cooking Safety & Hygiene

Hand washing: Always wash hands before and after handling food.

Adult supervision: Adults manage knives, hot water, fires, braais, stoves, and raw meat.

Food allergies: Check every child's dietary requirements in advance and prepare safe alternatives.

Cold storage: Keep chilled food in a cooler and minimise the time it spends in the heat.

Cooking temperatures: Adults must ensure food is thoroughly cooked before it is served.

Clean-up: Include washing, drying, and packing away as part of the cooking activity.

### **Tips for Cooking Activities**

Prep work: Pre-cut ingredients and organise each station before children arrive.

Simple jobs: Give Meerkats meaningful, age-appropriate roles such as mixing, spreading, choosing, arranging, or sprinkling.

Small groups: Keep cooking groups small enough for close adult support.

Safari storytelling: Use the food names to start conversations about animals, habitats, and camp life.

Flexible menu: Adapt ingredients and portions to the camp's facilities, weather, and dietary needs.

## Crafty Chameleon Corner — Crafts and Community Service



*Safari Ranger T-Shirts*



*Safari Animal Footprints*



*Savanna Diorama*

### Crafty Chameleon Corner

Safari-inspired crafts and community service

#### Zone Overview

Crafty Chameleon Corner is where creativity comes alive! Meerkats make memorable keepsakes and learn valuable crafting skills. This zone combines art, fine motor skill development, and the opportunity to create items for community service projects. All crafts use simple materials and can be adapted for different skill levels.

#### Safari Explorer T-Shirts

**Description:** Meerkats design and decorate their own safari ranger t-shirts using fabric paint, markers, or stencils. A wearable keepsake from camp!

**Materials:** Plain white or light-colored t-shirts (one per child); Fabric paint or fabric markers; Animal stencils; Paintbrushes or sponges; Newspaper or plastic to protect work surface

**Instructions:** Lay out t-shirts on a protected surface; Provide stencils or let children draw designs; Paint or color designs with fabric paint/markers; Let dry completely before wearing; Follow fabric paint instructions for heat-setting if needed

#### Binoculars Craft

**Description:** Make functional binoculars from paper rolls. Perfect for wildlife observation activities!

**Materials:** Two toilet paper rolls per child; Tape (duct tape or masking tape); Paint or markers for decoration; String or yarn for a strap  
**Instructions:** Tape two toilet paper rolls together side by side; Paint or decorate with safari colors; Attach a string or yarn strap; Use for wildlife observation!

## Animal Masks

**Description:** Create masks of favorite safari animals using paper plates. Great for dramatic play and storytelling!

**Materials:** Paper plates (one per child); Paint, markers, or colored paper; Scissors; Glue or tape; String or elastic for wearing; Craft embellishments (feathers, googly eyes, etc.)

**Instructions:** Cut eye holes in the paper plate; Paint or decorate to look like an animal; Add details (ears, nose, whiskers, etc.); Attach string or elastic to wear; Use for dramatic play!

Safari Animal Footprints

**Description:** Make animal track impressions using sponges and paint. A fun way to learn about different animals!

**Materials:** Sponges or cardboard cut into animal foot shapes; Paint (various colors); Paper or canvas; Shallow dishes for paint

**Instructions:** Dip sponge/cardboard into paint; Press onto paper to make footprints; Create patterns or trails; Label which animal made each track

## Savanna Diorama

**Description:** Create a miniature savanna scene in a shoebox or container. A great way to showcase learning about the African ecosystem!

**Materials:** Shoebox or container; Sand, soil, or brown paper for ground; Small twigs, leaves, or craft materials for trees; Small plastic safari animals; Paint, markers, or colored paper for background; Glue or tape

**Instructions:** Paint or decorate the inside of the box; Add sand or soil to the bottom; Create trees and plants with craft materials; Place animals in the scene; Add labels or tell the story of your diorama

## Craft Activity Tips

Preparation: Pre-cut materials for younger children to save time

Supervision: Always supervise scissor and glue use

Creativity: Encourage individual expression and creativity

Cleanup: Make cleanup part of the activity

Display: Display finished crafts proudly at camp

Keepsakes: Let children take crafts home as memories

Adaptations: Adapt activities for different skill levels

## Community Service Ideas

Use craft activities to create items for community service projects:

Create animal masks for a local school or library

Make footprint art for a community center

Design posters about wildlife conservation

Create dioramas for a local nature center

Make decorations for a community event

# Explorer's Lookout — Stories, Stargazing, and Reflection



*Safari twilight inspiration for Explorer's Lookout*

## Explorer's Lookout

Stargazing, storytelling, and quiet reflection

Zone Overview

Explorer's Lookout is a calm, reflective space for quieter activities. This zone balances the high-energy activities with moments of peace and wonder. It's perfect for winding down at the end of the day, building community through shared stories, and connecting with nature under the stars.

## Campfire Stories

**Description:** Gather around the campfire for storytelling. Share safari adventures, African folktales, or encourage Meerkats to tell their own stories. This builds community and imagination.

### Story Ideas

Safari Adventures: Tell stories about animals and their habitats

African Folktales: Share traditional stories from African cultures

Meerkat Tales: Create stories about the Meerkats' camp adventures

Personal Stories: Invite Meerkats to share their favorite memories

Interactive Stories: Tell stories where children add parts

### Tips for Storytelling

Use expressive voices and gestures

Make eye contact with the children

Pause for effect and let children respond

Keep stories age-appropriate and engaging

Use props or visual aids if available

## Five-Minute Safari Story Collection

These original, feel-good stories are written for a slow five-minute read-aloud with pauses, expressive voices, and one short reflection afterwards. Choose one for a campfire, quiet time, or bedtime routine.

### Zuri Zebra and the Giggle-Grass Surprise

A funny Safari adventure · About 5 minutes read aloud

**Before You Read**

**Invite Meerkats to practise their quietest giggle, then their loudest silent zebra grin.**

One warm afternoon, Zuri Zebra trotted across the savanna looking for the softest grass for her picnic. She found a patch beside a sunny termite mound. It looked ordinary, but when Zuri took one tiny nibble, the grass tickled her nose. “Haa-haa-haa-CHOO!” she sneezed so hard that a cloud of yellow flowers puffed into the air and landed all over her stripes.

Momo Monkey swung down from a tree and burst into giggles. “Zuri, you have spotty stripes!” he laughed kindly. Zuri tried brushing the flowers away with her tail, but every swish made her sneeze again. Haa-CHOO! Soon Momo had flowers on his ears, Tandi Tortoise had a flower on her shell, and even old Elephant Nala had one balanced on the tip of her trunk.

“We need a plan,” said Zuri, trying not to giggle. The friends formed the Safari Sneezing Squad. Momo used a leaf as a tiny umbrella. Tandi marched slowly around Zuri’s hooves to check for sneaky grass. Elephant Nala gave one very gentle trunk-puff. The flowers floated up like little yellow butterflies and settled in a circle around them.

Just then, a family of butterflies fluttered down to drink from the flowers. Zuri looked at her friends, all wearing one silly flower each, and started to laugh. Everyone laughed too — even Tandi, whose laugh sounded like a tiny drum. “The giggle-grass gave us a picnic and a butterfly garden,” Zuri said.

From that day on, the friends called the patch the Giggle-Grass Garden. They never picked all the flowers, because the butterflies liked them too. Whenever someone felt a bit grumpy, they visited the garden, remembered their flower-covered sneezes, and found a smile again.

Gentle Reflection Prompt

Ask: “What made the friends laugh together? What kind thing did they do for the butterflies?”

Den Scouter note: Use playful sneeze and giggle sounds. Pause before the sneezes so the group can join in.

### Amari Meerkat and the Little Waterhole

A gentle story about sharing and patience · About 5 minutes read aloud

**Before You Read**

**Ask everyone to place one hand over their heart and one hand on their knee, ready to listen quietly like a watchful meerkat.**

After many sunny days, Amari Meerkat discovered that the small waterhole near her burrow was lower than usual. A bright puddle remained in the middle, but many thirsty animals were arriving: birds, hares, warthogs, zebra, and a tall giraffe named Lolo. Everyone wanted to drink first.

The birds fluttered to the edge. The warthogs shuffled forward. Lolo bent her long neck, but then stopped. “I can reach water from high places later,” she said. “Perhaps the smaller animals can go first.” Amari thought that was a very wise idea.

Amari climbed onto a smooth rock and called, “Let us make a Waterhole Queue!” The tiny birds drank first because their beaks were small. Then the hares, who had been waiting politely under a bush. The warthogs took turns splashing only a little. Each animal made room for the next one.

It was difficult to wait. Amari’s own throat felt dry, and she could see the sparkling puddle below. But she watched Lolo stand patiently at the back and remembered that everyone needed water. When Amari’s turn came, she took a small drink and smiled at the animal behind her.

Just as Elephant Nala reached the waterhole, clouds gathered above the savanna. Plip. Plop. Plip-plop-plip! Gentle rain filled the waterhole again. The animals cheered, not because the water was suddenly full, but because they had looked after one another when it was small.

That evening, Amari told her burrow, “A little bit of kindness can make enough room for everybody.” Her family agreed, and they added a new rule to their burrow: when someone is waiting, make space and help them feel included.

Gentle Reflection Prompt

Ask: “How did the animals make room for one another? When have you waited kindly for a turn?”

Den Scouter note: Keep the ending calm. Let children mime making space with their hands and practise saying, “You can have a turn after me.”

## Roro Lion Learns to Listen

A kind story about bullying, apology, and including others · About 5 minutes read aloud

### Before You Read

Tell the group that everyone deserves to feel safe, included, and listened to. Explain that if someone is unkind or leaves them out, they can always tell a trusted adult.

Roro was a young lion with a loud roar and a very big wish: he wanted everyone to think he was the best Safari Explorer. One day, the animals were planning a treasure hunt. Mpho Mouse offered to draw the map because she was good at noticing tiny paths. Roro laughed too loudly. “Your paws are too small for a map!” he roared. Then he told Mpho and Tandi Tortoise that they could not join his team. Mpho felt small inside, even though she was already small outside. Tandi felt sad too. They did not shout back or try to make Roro feel bad. Instead, they walked together to Elephant Nala, the trusted grown-up leader of the game. “Roro keeps leaving us out and saying hurtful things,” Mpho said. “We want to play safely with everyone.”

Elephant Nala thanked them for telling her. She gathered the animals in a Kindness Circle. “On this savanna, we do not use our size, roar, or friends to make others feel small,” she said gently. “Everyone has something special to offer.” Mpho said, “I felt sad when I was told I could not join.” Tandi said, “I felt left out.”

Roro’s ears drooped. At first, he wanted to roar again, but Elephant Nala helped him take a slow breath. Roro whispered, “I wanted to be the leader, so I tried to make everyone else seem less important. That was not kind.” He looked at Mpho and Tandi. “I am sorry. Will you help lead the treasure hunt with me?”

Mpho drew a clever map with a secret mouse-sized shortcut. Tandi noticed a safe path around a prickly bush. Roro used his loud roar only once — to call, “This way, team!” when everybody was ready. Together, they found the treasure: a basket of shiny seed pods for every animal to share.

Roro learned that a real leader helps others feel brave. Mpho and Tandi learned that telling a trusted adult was the right thing to do. The friends finished the day laughing, sharing seed pods, and making a new rule for every game: no one is left out.

### Gentle Reflection Prompt

Ask: “What did Mpho and Tandi do when they felt left out? Who are trusted adults you can speak to? What did Roro do to repair the hurt?”

Den Scouter note: Read this story gently and do not ask children to name real people or retell personal experiences in the group. Reassure them privately that they can always speak to a trusted adult.

## Stargazing

**Description:** Look at the stars and find the brightest one. Discuss constellations, planets, and the vastness of space. A magical experience that connects children to nature.

### Activities

Find the Brightest Star: Challenge to spot the brightest star

Constellation Hunt: Look for recognizable constellations

Planet Spotting: Identify visible planets (if applicable)

Moon Observation: Discuss moon phases and lunar features

Wish Upon a Star: Make wishes on shooting stars

### Discussion Topics

How far away are the stars?

What animals navigate by the stars?

How did ancient people use stars?

What do you think is beyond the stars?

## Safari Songs

**Description:** Sing safari-themed songs by the campfire. Songs build community, create memories, and are fun for all ages.

### Song Ideas

Animal Songs: Songs about different safari animals

Campfire Classics: Traditional campfire songs adapted with safari themes

Action Songs: Songs with movements and actions

Call and Response: Leader sings, group responds

Lullabies: Gentle songs for bedtime

### Tips for Leading Songs

Start with familiar songs and add new ones gradually

Sing clearly so children can follow along

Encourage participation but don't force it  
 Use hand motions and movements  
 Repeat songs so children learn them

## Reflection Time (Meerkat's Own)

**Description:** Create quiet moments for Meerkats to reflect on their day, share feelings, and connect with nature. This builds emotional awareness and community bonds.

### Reflection Activities

Circle Sharing: Sit in a circle and share highlights from the day  
 Gratitude Circle: Share what you're grateful for  
 Feelings Check-in: How are you feeling? Why?  
 Nature Observation: Sit quietly and observe nature  
 Journaling: Draw or write about the day  
 Discussion Prompts  
 What was your favorite activity today?  
 What did you learn?  
 How did you help others today?  
 What are you looking forward to tomorrow?  
 How do you feel about being a Safari Ranger?

## Bedtime Stories & Routine

**Description:** Establish a calming bedtime routine with stories, gentle songs, and quiet reflection. This helps Meerkats wind down and prepare for sleep.

### Bedtime Routine Ideas

Gather in sleeping area or around a low light  
 Tell a calm, gentle story  
 Sing a soft lullaby  
 Have a quiet reflection or gratitude moment  
 Wish each other good night

### Story Suggestions

Gentle animal stories  
 African folktales with peaceful endings  
 Stories about friendship and community  
 Guided relaxation stories

### Creating a Calm Atmosphere

Lighting: Use soft lighting (campfire, lanterns, or dim lights)  
 Sound: Keep noise levels low and use gentle voices  
 Space: Create a comfortable, safe space for gathering  
 Comfort: Provide blankets, pillows, or cushions  
 Timing: Schedule reflection activities when children are calm and ready  
 Respect: Respect children's need for quiet and personal space

# Safari Badges

**Badge planning:** The Safari camp programme can support Little Camper, Cooking, Eco-Warrior, and Bug Hunter badge progress. Keep a simple record of individual progress and adapt activities so every Meerkat can participate.

## Little Camper Badge — Safari Style

*Complete all eight requirements.*

- Help pack for safari — help pack to go camping.
- Sleep under the stars — sleep in a tent or shelter with mom and/or dad for one night.
- Bush kitchen prep — help get a meal ready in the open air.
- Clean the waterhole — help wash up after a meal.
- Safari walk — find at least three interesting things and explain why they are interesting.
- Tidy the Den — help keep the tent or shelter and campsite tidy; air a sleeping bag or blanket.
- Campfire songs — sing songs by the campfire.
- Stargazing — look at the stars and find the brightest one.

## Cooking Badge

*Complete all four requirements.*

- Safari Chef Safety — learn about handwashing, hygiene, a clean cooking area, and food safety rules.
- Bush Cooking — with an adult, cook on an outside fire; make a simple meal such as Safari Breakfast in a Bag or Explorer Bread.
- Safari Snacks — with an adult, help make pizza, bread, vetkoek, scrambled egg, or an omelet in a bag.
- Sweet Treats — with an adult, make Animal Track Cookies or Safari S'mores and practise measuring and following a recipe.

## Eco-Warrior Badge

*Complete any two of the three options.*

- Savanna Plants — identify leaf, stem, flower, and roots; learn what plants need; name herbivores and discuss what they eat.
- Wildlife Observation — observe a bird or local animal and describe its appearance, location, actions, and interactions.
- Safari Animal Study — choose an African animal, find or draw it, then describe its size, habitat, timing, food, and an interesting fact.

## Bug Hunter Badge

*Complete any three of the six tasks.*

- Find out about spiders and whether spiders are insects.
- Make a poster or play-dough models of the butterfly life cycle.
- Find out how to prevent mosquito bites.
- Make a bee or bug hotel using natural materials.
- Learn about the bee life cycle and how bees help us.
- Research a favourite bug: its home, food, predators, and whether it lives alone, in a colony, or in a swarm.

## Badge Award Tips for Den Scouters

- Document each Meerkat's completed requirements during camp.
- Recognize progress publicly and positively.
- Make the closing ceremony or the next Den meeting a special presentation moment.
- Encourage each Meerkat to celebrate other Meerkats' achievements.

# Safari Games Resource



*Zebra Tail Tag*



*Crocodile Swamp Crossing*

## Safari Games

Detailed guide to all camp games and activities

### Games Overview

Games are a crucial part of the camp experience, providing fun, exercise, and opportunities for Meerkats to bond. These games are designed to be inclusive, adaptable, and aligned with the safari theme. All games should be supervised closely and adapted as needed for different groups.

### Cheetah Run Relay

- ☐ Lion's Den
- ☐ 15 minutes

**Description:** A high-energy relay race where Meerkats run like different safari animals.

**Materials Needed:** Cones or markers

**How to Play:** Divide into teams, mark start/finish lines, call out animals, teams race with animal movements.

## Monkey Dodge

- ☐ Lion's Den
- ☐ 15 minutes

**Description:** A dodgeball-style game with soft balls as 'coconuts'.

**Materials Needed:** Soft balls or balloons

Cones

**How to Play:** Scouters throw soft balls, Meerkats dodge while running across play area. If hit, freeze until tagged free.

## Zebra Tail Tag

- ☐ Lion's Den
- ☐ 15 minutes

**Description:** Each Meerkat tucks a scarf as their 'tail' and tries to steal others' tails.

**Materials Needed:** Scarves or cloth strips

**How to Play:** Tuck scarves in waistbands, Meerkats try to steal tails while protecting their own. Last with a tail wins.

## Elephant Herding

- ☐ Lion's Den
- ☐ 15 minutes

**Description:** Meerkats work together to roll balls (melons) to a 'watering hole'.

**Materials Needed:** Soft balls

Cones

**How to Play:** Roll balls from start line to goal area. Time how long it takes. Play multiple rounds to beat their time.

## Crocodile Swamp Crossing

- ☐ Lion's Den
- ☐ 15 minutes

**Description:** Cross a 'swamp' by stepping only on lily pads without touching the ground.

**Materials Needed:** Paper plates, newspaper sheets or foam mats

**How to Play:** Scatter plates across play area. Meerkats cross using only plates. If they touch ground, they start over.

## Lion Freeze Dance

- ☐ Lion's Den
- ☐ 15 minutes

**Description:** Move to safari sounds, freeze when music stops.

**Materials Needed:** Speaker or drum

Safari sounds or music

**How to Play:** Play music, Meerkats move like lions. When music stops, they freeze. Anyone who moves stays frozen for one round (or sits out one round).

## Animal Charades

- ☐ Explorer's Lookout
- ☐ 20 minutes

**Description:** Act out safari animals and guess which one it is.

**Materials Needed:** Animal cards or pictures

**How to Play:** One child acts out an animal, others guess. Rotate so everyone gets a turn.

## Safari Scavenger Hunt

- ☐ Elephant's Trail
- ☐ 20-30 minutes

**Description:** Search for specific items in nature (something red, smooth, rough, etc.).

**Materials Needed:** Scavenger hunt list

Collection bags

**How to Play:** Give children a list of items to find. They search the campsite and collect items. Discuss findings afterward.

## Water Balloon Toss

☐ Hippo's Oasis

☐ 15 minutes

**Description:** Partners toss water balloons, stepping further apart after each catch.

**Materials Needed:** Water balloons

Towels

**How to Play:** Partners face each other and toss balloon back and forth. After each successful catch, step further apart.

## Sponge Relay Race

☐ Hippo's Oasis

☐ 15 minutes

**Description:** Teams race to fill a bucket with water using sponges.

**Materials Needed:** Sponges

Buckets

Water source

**How to Play:** Teams compete to fill their bucket first. First team to fill their bucket wins.

## Game Management Tips

Clear Instructions: Explain rules clearly before starting

Supervision: Always supervise games closely for safety

Inclusivity: Adapt games so all children can participate

Enthusiasm: Be enthusiastic and encourage participation

Fair Play: Emphasize fun over winning

Rotation: Rotate between high-energy and moderate-energy games

Water Breaks: Provide water breaks between activities

Adaptations: Be ready to modify games based on group needs

## Creating Your Own Safari Games

Feel free to create new games based on these templates. Here are some ideas:

Animal Movement Games: Create games where children move like different animals

Safari Hunts: Design scavenger hunts based on camp themes

Water Games: Adapt water activities for hot days

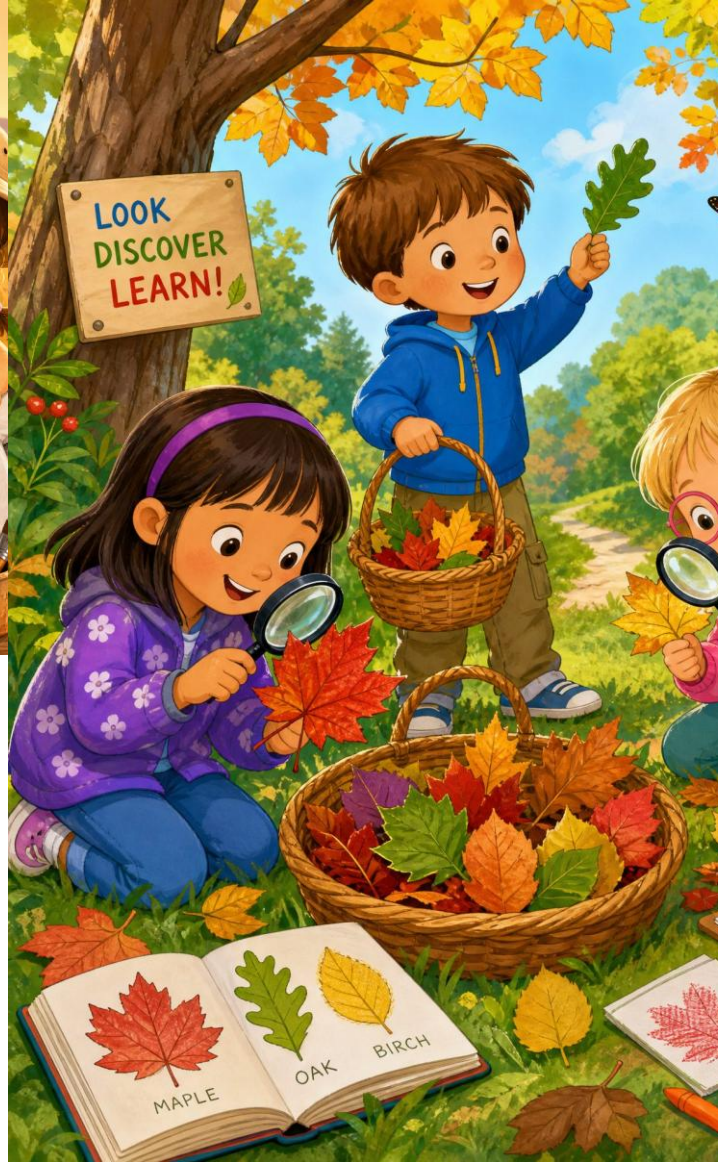
Team Challenges: Create cooperative games that require teamwork

Quiet Games: Design calmer games for evening activities

# Safari Crafts Resource



*Safari Ranger T-Shirts*



*Safari Collage inspiration*

## Safari Crafts

Creative craft activities for Meerkats

Crafts Overview

Crafts are a wonderful way for Meerkats to express creativity, develop fine motor skills, and create lasting memories of camp. These crafts are designed to be simple, fun, and aligned with the safari theme. All crafts can be adapted for different skill levels and time constraints.

### Safari Explorer T-Shirts

□ 30-45 minutes

□ Easy

**Description:** Meerkats design and decorate their own safari ranger t-shirts using fabric paint and stencils.

**Materials Needed:** Plain t-shirts

Fabric paint

Stencils

Paintbrushes

Newspaper

**Instructions:**

Lay out t-shirts on protected surface  
 Provide stencils or let children draw designs  
 Paint designs with fabric paint  
 Let dry completely before wearing  
 Follow fabric paint instructions for heat-setting

**Bleach-Print Safari T-Shirts (Adult-Led)**

- ☐ 45-60 minutes, plus washing and drying time
- ☐ Adult-led only

**Description:** On a dark cotton t-shirt, Meerkats choose a safari animal stencil while adult leaders create the light-coloured bleach reveal. The children can watch the animal picture appear from a marked safe distance, but they do not handle bleach or the treated shirt.

**Adult-Only Safety Requirements**

Use this activity only when the campsite risk assessment, the product label, and your Den's safety procedures allow it. Offer the fabric-paint t-shirt craft as the non-chemical alternative.

All bleach handling, filling, spraying, rinsing, and laundering is adult-only. Keep children behind a clearly marked boundary and never let them touch the applicator or a treated shirt.

Work fully outdoors in moving fresh air. Adults wear gloves and eye protection, keep the chemical in a clearly labelled container, and store it locked away immediately after use.

Never mix bleach with any other product or cleaner. Keep it away from food, drink, camp cookware, flames, and children with respiratory sensitivities.

Adults rinse the shirt thoroughly and launder it separately before it is collected, handled, or worn by a Meerkat.

**Materials Needed:** 1 dark-coloured, 100% cotton t-shirt per Meerkat

Safari animal stencils (lion, zebra, elephant, giraffe or paw prints)

Cardboard insert for inside each shirt

Plastic table covering and a marked child-free work area

Household bleach and a labelled, chemical-safe applicator — adult use only

Adult gloves, eye protection, clean water, and a washing container

**Instructions:**

Before camp, complete the activity risk assessment, check the bleach label, and set up an outdoor work table with a clear child-free boundary.

During the dry setup, each Meerkat chooses a dark t-shirt and safari stencil. An adult places cardboard inside the shirt and secures the stencil.

Move all Meerkats behind the marked boundary. An adult wearing gloves and eye protection applies the bleach carefully to the exposed fabric, following the product label.

Let the group watch the safari shape appear from a safe distance while the adult controls the reveal time.

The adult removes the stencil, rinses the shirt thoroughly, and launders it separately before drying.

Only return the finished shirt once it is clean, fully dry, and free of bleach residue. Celebrate each Meerkat's safari design.

**Binoculars Craft**

- ☐ 20-30 minutes
- ☐ Easy

**Description:** Make functional binoculars from paper rolls for wildlife observation.

**Materials Needed:** Toilet paper rolls

Tape

Paint or markers

String or yarn

**Instructions:**

Tape two rolls together side by side

Paint or decorate with safari colors

Attach a string or yarn strap

Use for wildlife observation

## Animal Masks

- ☐ 30-45 minutes
- ☐ Easy

**Description:** Create masks of favorite safari animals using paper plates.

**Materials Needed:** Paper plates

Paint/markers

Scissors

Glue

String/elastic

Craft embellishments

**Instructions:**

Cut eye holes in the paper plate

Paint or decorate to look like an animal

Add details (ears, nose, whiskers)

Attach string or elastic to wear

Use for dramatic play

## Safari Animal Footprints

- ☐ 20-30 minutes
- ☐ Easy

**Description:** Make animal track impressions using sponges and paint.

**Materials Needed:** Sponges or cardboard

Paint

Paper or canvas

Shallow dishes

**Instructions:**

Cut sponges/cardboard into animal foot shapes

Dip into paint

Press onto paper to make footprints

Create patterns or trails

Label which animal made each track

## Savanna Diorama

- ☐ 45-60 minutes
- ☐ Medium

**Description:** Create a miniature savanna scene in a shoebox or container.

**Materials Needed:** Shoebox

Sand/soil

Twigs/leaves

Plastic animals

Paint/markers

Glue

**Instructions:**

Paint or decorate the inside of the box

Add sand or soil to the bottom

Create trees and plants with craft materials

Place animals in the scene

Add labels or tell the story

## Animal Puppets

- ☐ 30-45 minutes
- ☐ Medium

**Description:** Make simple hand puppets of safari animals.

**Materials Needed:** Paper bags or socks

Paint/markers

Glue

Craft materials

Scissors

**Instructions:**

Choose a paper bag or sock

Paint or draw animal features

Add details with craft materials

Use for storytelling and dramatic play

## Beaded Animal Bracelets

- ☐ 20-30 minutes
- ☐ Easy

**Description:** String beads in animal colors and patterns.

**Materials Needed:** Beads

String or elastic

Scissors

Tape

**Instructions:**

Choose beads in safari colors

String beads in animal color patterns

Tie or knot the ends

Wear as a safari souvenir

## Safari Collage

- ☐ 30-45 minutes
- ☐ Easy

**Description:** Create a collage using magazine cutouts and craft materials.

**Materials Needed:** Magazines

Scissors

Glue

Paper or cardboard

Markers

**Instructions:**

Cut out animal and landscape pictures

Arrange on paper

Glue pieces down

Add details with markers

Display proudly

## Painted Rocks

- ☐ 20-30 minutes
- ☐ Easy

**Description:** Paint rocks with safari animal designs.

**Materials Needed:** Rocks

Paint

Paintbrushes

Sealer (optional)

**Instructions:**

Clean and dry rocks  
 Paint animal designs  
 Add details and patterns  
 Let dry completely  
 Use as decorations or gifts

## Safari Bookmark

- ☐ 15-20 minutes
- ☐ Easy

**Description:** Design a bookmark with safari themes.

**Materials Needed:** Cardstock or heavy paper

Markers/colored pencils  
 Stickers  
 Hole punch  
 String/ribbon

**Instructions:**

Cut cardstock into bookmark shape  
 Design with safari animals and colors  
 Add hole at top for string  
 Laminate if desired  
 Use or give as a gift

Printable Safari Animal Stencil Pack

Download eight A4 pages with adult-preparation guidance and bold Lion, Elephant, Giraffe, Zebra, Acacia Tree, and Safari Paw templates for the t-shirt activities.

Download Stencil Pack (PDF)

## Craft Activity Tips

Preparation: Pre-cut materials for younger children to save time  
 Supervision: Always supervise scissor and glue use  
 Creativity: Encourage individual expression and creativity  
 Cleanup: Make cleanup part of the activity  
 Display: Display finished crafts proudly at camp  
 Keepsakes: Let children take crafts home as memories  
 Adaptations: Adapt activities for different skill levels  
 Time Management: Have backup activities if crafts finish early

## Craft Supply Checklist

Keep these supplies on hand for spontaneous craft activities:

Scissors, glue, tape, markers  
 Paper, cardstock, construction paper  
 Paint, paintbrushes, sponges  
 Craft embellishments (googly eyes, feathers, beads)  
 Recyclables (paper rolls, boxes, containers)  
 Natural materials (leaves, twigs, rocks)  
 String, yarn, ribbon

## Flexible Safari Menu



*Safari Flapjacks*



*Waterhole Stew*

## Safari Camp Menu

Flexible meal suggestions and food preparation guide

### Menu Overview

These are flexible, suggested meal ideas—not a day-by-day menu. Den Scouters can choose, swap, repeat, or combine options to suit their camp length, available equipment, dietary needs, and the Meerkats' preferences. All meals should be adapted for dietary restrictions and allergies.

Breakfast

Lunch

Supper

### Breakfast Ideas

#### Ostrich Eggs in a Bag

A fun, hands-on breakfast where each Meerkat makes their own egg in a zip-lock bag.

Crack an egg into a zip-lock bag

Add milk, salt, cheese, or vegetables

Seal the bag and cook in hot water until set

Open and enjoy!

### **Safari Flapjacks**

Simple pancakes with animal shapes and toppings.

Make pancake batter

Cook pancakes on griddle

Press animal-shaped cookie cutters or fruit pieces onto warm pancakes

Serve with syrup, fruit, or whipped cream

### **Monkey Fruit Skewers**

Fresh fruit on skewers with yogurt for dipping.

Thread banana, apple, and grape pieces onto skewers

Serve with yogurt for dipping

Add granola for crunch

### **Ranger Porridge**

Warm, hearty porridge with fruit and honey.

Cook oatmeal or porridge

Top with fresh fruit, honey, and nuts

Serve warm with milk

### **Campfire Toast**

Toast bread over the campfire with various toppings.

Toast bread over campfire

Spread with butter, jam, or honey

Add cheese or banana

## **Snacks & Treats**

### **Animal Track Cookies**

Bake simple cookies and have Meerkats press animal-shaped stamps into the dough.

### **Safari S'mores**

Classic campfire s'mores with a safari twist. Tell stories while enjoying!

### **Fruit Popsicles**

Freeze fruit juice or smoothies on sticks for refreshing treats on hot days.

### **Popcorn Trail Mix**

Popcorn mixed with dried fruit, nuts, and chocolate chips.

### **Fruit Kabobs**

Colorful fruit on skewers for a healthy, fun snack.

## **Cooking Safety & Hygiene**

Hand Washing: Always wash hands before and after handling food

Adult Supervision: All cooking must be supervised by adults

Fire Safety: Keep children at safe distance from fire

Clean Utensils: Use clean utensils and surfaces

Allergies: Check for food allergies before preparing meals

Temperature: Ensure food is cooked to appropriate temperatures

Storage: Store food properly to prevent spoilage

Cleanup: Clean up immediately after cooking

Dietary Considerations

Allergies: Collect allergy information before camp

Vegetarian/Vegan: Provide alternatives for all meals

Religious Restrictions: Respect dietary requirements

Preferences: Accommodate children's food preferences when possible

Hydration: Provide plenty of water throughout the day

Nutrition: Balance meals with fruits, veggies, and proteins

# Packing and Kit Lists

**Camp non-negotiables:** At least one parent or guardian must camp with every Meerkat during a sleepover. Meerkats arrive in full uniform with hats and scarves. **No electronics are allowed for children and no alcohol is permitted at camp.**

## Meerkat kit list

### Clothing

- ☐ Full uniform with hat and scarf for arrival
- ☐ Two sets of clean clothes
- ☐ Two pairs of underwear and socks
- ☐ Sleepwear
- ☐ Jacket and long pants for night
- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Closed shoes (takkies) and flipflops

### Toiletries

- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Mozzie spray
- ☐ Toothbrush and toothpaste
- ☐ Soap
- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Personal medication clearly labelled

### Camping and activity items

- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ Pillow
- ☐ Camping mattress
- ☐ One dark-colored for bleaching or light-colored for painting cotton t-shirt for crafts
- ☐ Small backpack packed with personal items

## Parent or guardian kit list

### Camping gear

- ☐ Tent shared with child or separate
- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ Pillow
- ☐ Camping mattress
- ☐ Thick tarp or ground sheet

### Personal items

- ☐ Comfortable clothes, warm layers, long pants, sleepwear, sun hat
- ☐ Walking shoes and camp shoes
- ☐ Toiletries and personal medication
- ☐ Flashlight or headlamp
- ☐ Powerbank or chargers for adults

### Dining and food

- ☐ Plate, mug, bowl, cutlery, and water bottle for each person
- ☐ Coolerbox or cooler bag
- ☐ Meat for dinner and extra drinks with no alcohol
- ☐ Braai grid if not supplied
- ☐ Cutting board, sharp paring knife, dish soap, drying towel, and sponge

## Den Scouter supplies checklist

### First aid and camp management

- ☐ Comprehensive first aid kit
- ☐ Emergency contacts and protocols
- ☐ Emergency lighting and whistle
- ☐ Attendance sheets, rosters, badge tracking, incident forms, and programme plan

### Activity supplies

- ☐ Cones, soft balls, rope, music player, and speakers
- ☐ Water balloons, spray bottles, sponges, towels
- ☐ Markers, paper, glue, scissors, craft materials, and t-shirts
- ☐ Pots, pans, cooking utensils, ingredients, fuel, and food-storage containers

### Personal Den Scouter kit

- ☐ Tent, sleeping bag, and mattress
- ☐ Outdoor clothing and footwear
- ☐ Toiletries and medication
- ☐ Work gloves and apron

# Parent Communication Templates

**Use:** Customize every letter with local dates, times, locations, leader details, emergency contacts, and camp-specific arrangements before sending.

## Welcome to Safari Adventure Camp

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are thrilled to invite your child to Safari Adventure Camp - Denboree 2026! This year's camp features an exciting African Safari theme where our young Meerkats (ages 5-6) will embark on an adventure through the African savanna.

### Important: Parent/Guardian Participation Required

For sleepover camps, at least one parent or guardian must camp with their child. This is a safety requirement for this age group and ensures your child feels secure and supported throughout the experience.

### Camp Details

Date: [Insert Date]

Time: [Insert Time]

Location: [Insert Location]

Format: Day Camp / Sleepover [Select as applicable]

Parent Camping: Required for sleepover format

### What To Expect

During this camp, Meerkats will:

Explore six themed activity zones (Lion's Den, Elephant's Trail, Hippo's Oasis, Monkey's Munchies, Crafty Chameleon Corner, Explorer's Lookout)

Participate in safari games and outdoor adventures

Learn bushcraft and camping skills

Create safari-themed crafts

Earn badges (Little Camper, Cooking, Eco-Warrior, Safari Explorer)

Make new friends and memories

### Camp Schedule

[Insert daily schedule with times for each activity]

### Contact Information

Den Leader: [Name and Phone]

Emergency Contact: [Phone]

Camp Email: [Email]

We look forward to welcoming your child to an unforgettable safari adventure!

Warm regards,

The Safari Adventure Camp Team

## Packing Tips & Kit List

Dear Parents and Guardians,

To ensure your child has a comfortable and enjoyable experience at Safari Adventure Camp, please review this packing guide.

CLOTHING (2 sets recommended)

2 comfortable shirts or t-shirts

1 pair of shorts and 1 pair of long pants

2 pairs of underwear

1 pair of socks

1 warm layer or sweater

1 set of sleepwear

1 pair of closed shoes and optional slippers

### Personal Care Items

Toothbrush and toothpaste

Soap and washcloth

Sunscreen (SPF 30+)

Insect repellent

Any personal medications  
 Tissues and hand sanitizer  
 CAMPING GEAR (for sleepover only)  
 For Your Child:  
 Sleeping bag  
 Pillow  
 Sleeping mat or foam pad  
 For Parents/Guardians (sleepover format):  
 Your own sleeping bag and pillow  
 Your own sleeping mat or foam pad  
 Warm clothing and layers  
 Toiletries and personal care items  
 Flashlight or headlamp  
 Comfortable walking shoes  
 Any medications you may need

### Optional Items

Camera or journal for documenting memories  
 Favorite stuffed animal or comfort item  
 Water bottle (labeled with name)  
 Hat or cap for sun protection

### Packing Tips

Label all items with your child's name  
 Use a backpack or duffel bag for easy carrying  
 Pack items in a waterproof bag or plastic liner  
 Include a change of clothes in case of spills or water activities  
 Keep medications and valuables in a separate, secure bag

### Items Not Permitted

Electronics (phones, tablets, gaming devices for the Meerkats)  
 Expensive jewelry or watches  
 Weapons or sharp objects  
 Alcohol

If you have any questions about what to pack, please contact us.

Best regards,

The Safari Adventure Camp Team

## What to Expect & Camp Behavior

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We want to ensure your child has a safe, fun, and rewarding experience at Safari Adventure Camp. Please review these expectations and discuss them with your child before camp.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CAMPING REQUIREMENT (For Sleepover Format)

At least one parent or guardian must camp with their child. Parents will:

Share a tent or sleeping area with their child  
 Support their child during the camp experience  
 Participate in some activities alongside their child  
 Help with meal preparation and cleanup  
 Maintain camp rules and expectations

### Daily Routine

Morning: Arrival, welcome circle, and activity zone assignments  
 Mid-day: Lunch break and quiet time  
 Afternoon: Continued activities and crafts  
 Evening: Campfire, reflection, and departure (or bedtime for sleepover with parents)

## Camp Rules & Expectations

Respect all Den Leaders and fellow campers  
 Follow safety guidelines at all times  
 Participate actively in activities  
 Take care of camp property and the environment  
 Use kind words and include others  
 Stay with your activity group  
 Ask for help when needed

## Safety Measures

All activities are supervised by trained Den Leaders  
 First aid kit and trained personnel on site  
 Emergency procedures in place  
 Regular head counts and group checks  
 Sun protection and hydration breaks

## Badges & Achievements

Your child will have the opportunity to earn badges by completing activities:  
 Little Camper Badge: Camping and bushcraft skills  
 Cooking Badge: Food preparation and kitchen safety  
 Eco-Warrior Badge: Environmental awareness and conservation  
 Safari Explorer Badge: Wildlife knowledge and nature discovery

## Communication

Parents will receive daily updates via [communication method]  
 Pickup time is [time] - please be punctual  
 In case of emergency, we will contact you immediately  
 Feel free to contact us with any concerns

## What Your Child Should Know

It's okay to feel nervous - everyone does!  
 The Den Leaders are there to help  
 Making mistakes is part of learning  
 New friendships will form  
 Trying new things is encouraged  
 It's important to have fun and be yourself  
 We are committed to making this a memorable and safe experience for every Meerkat.  
 Warm regards,  
 The Safari Adventure Camp Team

## Activity Zones Overview

Dear Parents and Guardians,  
 Here's an overview of the six exciting activity zones your child will explore at Safari Adventure Camp:  
**LION'S DEN** - Big, Active Games & Challenges  
 Your child will participate in high-energy games like:  
 Cheetah Run Relay: Sprint like different safari animals  
 Monkey Dodge: Dodge obstacles while running  
 Zebra Tail Tag: Chase game with a twist  
 Lion Freeze Dance: Music and movement game  
 These activities build fitness, coordination, and teamwork.  
**ELEPHANT'S TRAIL** - Adventure & Nature Exploration  
 Activities include:  
 Nature Walks: Exploring the natural environment  
 Animal Tracking: Learning to identify animal signs  
 Wildlife Observation: Quiet observation and discussion  
 Eco-Warrior Activities: Environmental learning  
 Your child will develop an appreciation for nature and conservation.

**HIPPO'S OASIS - Water Games & Cooling Off**

Fun water activities include:

Water Balloon Toss: Team water game

Sponge Relay Race: Water-based relay

Water Gun Tag: Refreshing chase game

Splash Activities: Cooling off during hot days

Perfect for hot weather and building water confidence.

**MONKEY'S MUNCHIES - Safari-Themed Meals & Snacks**

Your child will enjoy:

Ostrich Eggs in a Bag: Unique cooking method

Safari Flapjacks: Pancakes with fun toppings

Lion Paw Sandwiches: Creative food preparation

Campfire Cooking: Learning basic cooking skills

Includes food safety and nutrition education.

**CRAFTY CHAMELEON CORNER - Safari-Inspired Crafts**

Creative activities include:

Safari Ranger T-Shirts: Design and decoration

Animal Masks: Creating wearable art

Binoculars Craft: Functional craft project

Savanna Diorama: Miniature scene building

Your child will create memorable keepsakes.

**EXPLORER'S LOOKOUT - Stargazing, Storytelling & Reflection**

Quieter activities include:

Campfire Stories: Storytelling and listening

Stargazing: Night sky observation (if applicable)

Safari Songs: Group singing and music

Reflection Time: Quiet moments for thinking

A peaceful way to end each day.

**Badge Opportunities**

Throughout these activities, your child can earn badges by demonstrating skills and completing challenges. Badges are a wonderful way to celebrate achievements!

We're excited for your child to experience all these amazing activities!

Best regards,

The Safari Adventure Camp Team

**Health, Safety & Special Needs**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Your child's health, safety, and well-being are our top priorities. Please provide complete and accurate information to help us support your child.

**Health Information Required**

Before camp, please provide:

Complete medical history

Current medications and dosages

Allergies (food, environmental, medication)

Emergency contact information

Health insurance details

Any dietary restrictions

**Medications**

All medications must be provided in original containers

Clear instructions for administration must be provided

Medications will be stored securely and administered as directed

Please inform us of any side effects to watch for

## Allergies & Dietary Restrictions

Food allergies: Please provide a complete list

We will accommodate dietary restrictions to the best of our ability

Inform us of any severe allergies requiring an EpiPen or similar device

We will keep allergen information readily available

## Illness Policy

Children who are ill should not attend camp

If your child becomes ill during camp, you will be contacted for pickup

We follow health guidelines for contagious illnesses

Hand sanitizer and hygiene practices are maintained throughout camp

## Special Needs & Accommodations

Please inform us of any physical, developmental, or learning needs

We will work with you to provide appropriate accommodations

Additional support or aides may be available upon request

Discuss specific needs during the registration process

## First Aid & Emergency Care

Trained first aid personnel are on site

Minor injuries will be treated with basic first aid

For serious injuries, emergency services will be called

Parents will be notified immediately of any medical concerns

## Outdoor Safety

Sun protection: Sunscreen provided; reapplied regularly

Hydration: Water breaks every 30 minutes

Insect protection: Insect repellent available

Weather monitoring: Activities adjusted for extreme weather

## Supervision & Safety Protocols

All activities are supervised by trained Den Leaders

Parents/guardians camp with their children (sleepover format) for additional supervision and support

Regular head counts ensure no child is left behind

Clear emergency procedures are in place

Staff are trained in child safety and protection

Parents are expected to maintain supervision of their child during the camp

## Communication

Please provide multiple contact numbers

We will contact you immediately for any health concerns

Daily health updates available upon request

Emergency contact procedures explained at orientation

If you have any health concerns or special needs to discuss, please contact us before camp begins.

Warm regards,

The Safari Adventure Camp Team

## Suggested Communication Timeline

Four to six weeks before camp: send the Welcome letter with camp overview and dates.

Two to three weeks before camp: send Packing Tips and Expectations letters.

One week before camp: send Activity Zones and Health/Safety information.

During camp: send appropriate updates and photos, if applicable.

After camp: send a thank-you letter and memories.

# Den Scouter Planning Workbook

**Editable companion:** The website also provides an editable Safari Planning Workbook with a To Do list and a detailed two-day Camp Program example. The key planning content is reproduced below so this guide can be used offline.

## Safari To Do

| Safari Adventure Camp 2026 — Planning To Do                                                                                                                          |                |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Example planning timeline for an overnight Meerkat camp (ages 5–6)                                                                                                   |                |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                         |
| Editable example for Den Scouters — adapt names, dates, venue details, quantities, and leadership assignments to your own camp.                                      |                |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                         |
| Overnight non-negotiables: at least one parent camps with each Meerkat; no electronics for children; no alcohol; Meerkats arrive in full uniform with hat and scarf. |                |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                         |
| Done                                                                                                                                                                 | Timing         | Safari Planning Task                                                                                                             | Why It Matters / Practical Note                                                                                                         |
| 2 Months Ahead — Map the Safari                                                                                                                                      |                |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                             | 2 months ahead | Appoint the Camp Leader, safety lead, food lead, activity lead, and one Burrow Leader per group.                                 | Create a clear communication channel for adult volunteers and record their roles.                                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                             | 2 months ahead | Confirm the campsite, overnight arrangements, ablutions, water points, cooking areas, and emergency access.                      | Visit the site if possible and identify the Lion's Den, Elephant's Trail, Hippo's Oasis, craft area, kitchen, campfire, and quiet zone. |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                             | 2 months ahead | Draft the Safari Camp Program, risk assessment, first-aid plan, and weather back-up plan.                                        | Use the example program in the second tab as a starting point; keep activities short and age-appropriate for 5–6-year-olds.             |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                             | 2 months ahead | Send the first parent communication and RSVP form.                                                                               | State clearly that at least one parent must camp with each Meerkat and that children may not bring electronics.                         |
| 4 Weeks Ahead — Assemble the Safari Team                                                                                                                             |                |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                             | 4 weeks ahead  | Send the detailed camp letter with cost, consent form, medical and dietary information request, kit list, and programme outline. | Include arrival in full uniform with hat and scarf; explain that the camp is alcohol-free.                                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                             | 4 weeks ahead  | Apply for the camp permit or secure the approval required by your Group, District, and venue.                                    | Attach the camp programme and relevant safety information.                                                                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                             | 4 weeks ahead  | Allocate families and Scouters to Burrows and begin assigning food, equipment, activity, and clean-up responsibilities.          | Keep siblings together where possible and ensure each Burrow has sufficient adult support.                                              |

| Safari Adventure Camp 2026<br>— Planning To Do |               |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 4 weeks ahead | Check badge opportunities against the programme: Little Camper, Cooking, Eco-Warrior, and Bug Hunter.                                                            | Choose only tasks that can be completed safely and naturally during camp.                                                        |
| 3 Weeks Ahead — Prepare the Safari Base        |               |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 3 weeks ahead | Confirm attendance, consent forms, medication, allergies, dietary requirements, emergency contacts, and parent camping arrangements.                             | Follow up promptly on missing information; do not assume an adult companion is attending.                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 3 weeks ahead | Complete the venue-specific risk assessment for fire, water, roads, night activities, weather, food hygiene, and boundaries.                                     | Plan a visible buddy system, whistle signal, adult supervision points, and an emergency assembly area.                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 3 weeks ahead | Check shared equipment: first-aid kit, drinking-water containers, gazebos, tables, fire equipment, ropes, buckets, craft boxes, torches for adults, and signage. | Create a collection plan for anything borrowed from families or the Group.                                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 3 weeks ahead | Prepare activity resources and adult instructions for each Safari zone.                                                                                          | Pre-cut craft materials; for the bleach-print shirt option, all chemical handling is adult-only and needs its own risk controls. |
| 2 Weeks Ahead — Confirm the Safari Route       |               |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 2 weeks ahead | Close the RSVP list and confirm the final numbers for Meerkats, parents, siblings, and Scouters.                                                                 | Recalculate food, water, transport, sleeping-space, and activity quantities.                                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 2 weeks ahead | Collect outstanding forms and payments; record medication handover arrangements.                                                                                 | Keep a secure hard-copy attendance and emergency-contact pack at camp.                                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 2 weeks ahead | Confirm the menu, shopping responsibilities, food storage, Halaal or other dietary arrangements, and meal-serving equipment.                                     | The menu is flexible: select meals suitable for your venue and cooking facilities.                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 2 weeks ahead | Brief all adult volunteers on the programme, their Burrow role, safeguarding expectations, emergency plan, and camp rules.                                       | Make sure adults know who is responsible for set-up, activities, meals, fires, clean-up, and overnight checks.                   |
| 1 Week Ahead — Pack the Ranger Boxes           |               |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 1 week ahead  | Buy non-perishable food and consumables; label boxes by meal or activity zone.                                                                                   | Separate food, craft, games, hygiene, and first-aid supplies so set-up is quicker.                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 1 week ahead  | Print the camp programme, attendance list, emergency contacts, consent/medical summary, menu, kit lists, badge trackers, and signage.                            | Keep digital copies with the Camp Leader, but do not rely on children having electronics.                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 1 week ahead  | Prepare the printable Safari stencil pack, animal-track cards, craft packs, game equipment, and award items.                                                     | Count everything against the final attendance list.                                                                              |

| Safari Adventure Camp 2026<br>— Planning To Do |              |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 1 week ahead | Send the final parent reminder.                                                              | Restate arrival time, full uniform, camping parent requirement, kit list, no alcohol, and no electronics for children. |
| 2 Days Ahead — Final Safari Check              |              |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 2 days ahead | Confirm final attendance with every family and adult volunteer.                              | Update the emergency-contact pack and food numbers immediately if anything changes.                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 2 days ahead | Check weather, route, campsite access, fire restrictions, and venue contact availability.    | Activate the weather back-up programme if needed.                                                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 2 days ahead | Pack shared camp equipment and activity boxes by zone.                                       | Use a vehicle-loading checklist so nothing essential is left behind.                                                   |
| 1 Day Before — Set the Safari Camp in Motion   |              |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 1 day before | Purchase perishables, chill food safely, and pack cooking, serving, and washing-up supplies. | Keep cold-chain foods separate and plan for safe storage at camp.                                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 1 day before | Pack the Camp Leader folder, first-aid supplies, safety gear, programme, and site maps.      | Include incident-report forms and emergency numbers.                                                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | 1 day before | Do a final readiness call with the leadership team.                                          | Confirm who arrives early to prepare registration, water, activity zones, and the adult briefing.                      |

## Safari Camp Program

| Safari Adventure Camp 2026 — Example Camp Program                                                                                                          |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Example overnight programme for Meerkats (ages 5–6), their camping parents, and Den Scouters                                                               |  |  |  |  |  |
| Editable example for Den Scouters — adapt names, dates, venue details, quantities, and leadership assignments to your own camp.                            |  |  |  |  |  |
| Use this as a flexible example. Keep one parent with every Meerkat overnight, make adult supervision visible, offer water often, and adjust activities for |  |  |  |  |  |

| Safari Adventure Camp 2026 — Example Camp Program    |          |                                          |                                  |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| weather, venue rules, group size, and energy levels. |          |                                          |                                  |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Time                                                 | Duration | Safari Activity                          | Lead & Support                   | Equipment / Set-up                                                           | Den Scouter Detail & Badge Link                                                                                                                                                                               |
| DAY 1 — Arrival, Safari Adventure & Overnight Camp   |          |                                          |                                  |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 10:00                                                | 30 min   | Arrival & Ranger Registration            | Camp Leader + registration team  | Attendance sheet, consent/medical folder, pens, wrist/burrow markers         | Welcome each family, check medication and final details, and record attendance. Remind families: adults stay with their Meerkats; no children's electronics; no alcohol.                                      |
| 10:30                                                | 15 min   | Opening Circle & Safari Rules            | Camp Leader + all Burrow Leaders | Promise and Law, whistle, camp map                                           | Introduce the whistle signal, buddy system, water points, boundaries, toilets, fire rules, wildlife respect, and the day's Safari mission.                                                                    |
| 10:45                                                | 45 min   | Set Up the Safari Base Camp              | Burrow Leaders + camping parents | Tent areas, site map, name markers                                           | Families set up together in Burrows. Meerkats help with simple jobs such as laying ground sheets, carrying soft gear, and identifying their sleeping space. Little Camper: Help pack / Sleep under the stars. |
| 11:30                                                | 30 min   | Lion's Den: Ranger Rescue Relay          | Games lead + Burrow Leaders      | Soft toy animals, buckets, cones, whistle                                    | Use a short, non-elimination relay. One Meerkat at a time rescues an animal and returns it to the Ranger Station. Offer a walking version if needed.                                                          |
| 12:05                                                | 45 min   | Crafty Chameleon: Safari Ranger T-Shirts | Craft lead + adult helpers       | Dark cotton shirts, fabric paint, Safari stencils, cardboard inserts, tables | Meerkats select a stencil and create a Safari shirt. Fabric paint is the standard option. If using bleach-print shirts, adults handle all chemical steps outdoors behind a                                    |

| Safari Adventure Camp 2026 — Example Camp Program |        |                                                   |                                  |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                   |        |                                                   |                                  |                                                              | child-free boundary; children only choose stencils and observe.                                                                                          |
| 12:50                                             | 45 min | Monkey's Munchies Lunch                           | Food lead + assigned parents     | Selected lunch ingredients, serving tables, mess kits, water | Serve one flexible camp lunch such as Lion Paw Sandwiches, Ranger Snack Boxes, or Herbivore Wraps. Reinforce handwashing and food-allergy controls.      |
| 13:35                                             | 20 min | Free Play & Water Break                           | All Burrow Leaders               | Water station, shaded area, quiet activities                 | Keep the group within the campsite boundary. This allows families to reset after lunch before the next structured activity.                              |
| 13:55                                             | 30 min | Elephant's Trail: Animal Track Detectives         | Nature lead + Burrow Leaders     | Track cards, magnifiers, clipboards, crayons                 | Search for safe signs of animal life, insects, textures, and natural patterns. Meerkats share three interesting discoveries. Little Camper: Safari Walk. |
| 14:30                                             | 20 min | Waterhole Snack Stop                              | Snack lead + parents             | Selected fruit snack, water/juice, serving trays             | Provide a seated shade break. Invite Meerkats to refill bottles and identify a healthy Safari Ranger choice.                                             |
| 14:50                                             | 35 min | Safari Wide Game: Waterhole Bingo                 | Games lead + Burrow Leaders      | Safari bingo cards, crayons, picture markers                 | Hide picture cards around a clearly marked area. Work in Burrows, not as a race. Each child can help spot animals, tracks, leaves, or camp items.        |
| 15:30                                             | 45 min | Crafty Chameleon: Safari Lanterns or Animal Masks | Craft lead + adult helpers       | Paper, card, glue, pre-cut pieces, LED tea lights only       | Run a simple, pre-prepared craft. Adults handle cutting, hot glue, and any heat tools. Finished lanterns use LED tealights only.                         |
| 16:20                                             | 35 min | Safari Walk & Nature Pause                        | Nature lead + all Burrow Leaders | Water, first aid, buddy markers                              | Take an easy, venue-approved walk. Stop to listen                                                                                                        |

| Safari Adventure Camp 2026 — Example Camp Program |           |                                        |                                   |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                   |           |                                        |                                   |                                                                         | for savanna sounds, look for shapes in trees, and practise staying with a buddy. Eco-Warrior and Bug Hunter links can be recorded.                                                                   |
| 17:00                                             | 40 min    | Bush Kitchen Preparation               | Food lead + adult cooking team    | Salad ingredients, safe child knives where approved, bowls, bread dough | Meerkats wash hands and complete simple supervised jobs: tear lettuce, add ingredients, stir, or portion bread dough. Little Camper: Bush Kitchen Prep. Cooking badge links apply where appropriate. |
| 17:40                                             | 25 min    | Campfire Circle                        | Campfire lead + fire safety adult | Fire area, seating boundary, songs, water/fire equipment                | Explain the fire boundary before lighting. Lead Safari songs, a short story, and Burrow performances. Little Camper: Campfire Songs; Safety and Entertainer links.                                   |
| 18:05                                             | 60 min    | Safari Braai / Supper                  | Food lead + parents               | Selected dinner, mess kits, serving utensils, handwashing station       | Adults control fires and cooking. Meerkats help with safe table jobs and their own bread or meal assembly under supervision. Include dietary alternatives and a separate Halaal set-up if required.  |
| 19:05                                             | 25 min    | Safari S'mores or Trail Tracker Treats | Dessert lead + adult helpers      | Selected treats, long handled tools if applicable                       | Use an adult-controlled fire area or a no-fire alternative. Keep portions simple and allergy-aware. Cooking: Sweet Treat opportunity.                                                                |
| 19:30                                             | 35 min    | Clean the Waterhole & Free Time        | Clean-up lead + each Burrow       | Basins, dish soap, sponges, drying towels, bins                         | Every family cleans mess kit items and helps restore their Burrow area. Little Camper: Clean the Waterhole / Tidy the Den.                                                                           |
| 20:10                                             | 30–40 min | Explorer's Lookout: Night              | Night activity lead + all Burrow  | Adult torches, first aid, buddy markers,                                | Only run if venue, weather, and adult                                                                                                                                                                |

| Safari Adventure Camp 2026 — Example Camp Program   |           |                                 |                                   |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                     |           | Walk & Stargazing (Optional)    | Leaders                           | star guide                                       | numbers allow. Keep to a familiar route, use a buddy system, and finish early. Children do not need electronics. Little Camper: Stargazing.                  |
| 21:00                                               | 15 min    | Quiet Time & Bed Routine        | Parents + Burrow Leaders          | Toiletries, sleeping gear                        | Families prepare sleep spaces, brush teeth, make a final toilet visit, and settle calmly. Keep noise low around neighbouring campers.                        |
| 21:30                                               | Overnight | Sleep Under the Stars           | Parents + overnight Scouters      | Sleeping gear, adult first-aid access            | Each Meerkat sleeps in a tent or shelter with their parent/guardian. Little Camper: Sleep under the stars.                                                   |
| DAY 2 — Morning Safari Mission, Pack Down & Closing |           |                                 |                                   |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                              |
| 07:30                                               | 30 min    | Wake Up, Wash & Stretch         | Burrow Leaders + parents          | Water, toiletries, open area                     | Meerkats wash, dress, air sleeping bags/blankets, and take part in gentle animal-movement stretches. Little Camper: Tidy the Den.                            |
| 08:00                                               | 40 min    | Safari Breakfast                | Breakfast lead + assigned parents | Selected breakfast ingredients, mess kits, water | Choose a flexible option such as Safari Flapjacks, Ranger Porridge, Campfire Toast, or Monkey Fruit Skewers. Adults supervise all heat and food preparation. |
| 08:45                                               | 20 min    | Meerkats Own & Reflection       | Meerkats Own lead                 | Quiet spot, optional reflection cards            | Create a calm moment to reflect on favourite Safari discoveries, camp rules, and how everyone helped their Burrow.                                           |
| 09:10                                               | 60 min    | Lion's Den Safari Games Circuit | Games lead + Burrow Leaders       | Cones, soft balls, water relay equipment, rope   | Offer age-appropriate stations such as Cheetah Run Relay, Zebra Tail Tag, Elephant Water Relay, and                                                          |

| Safari Adventure Camp 2026 — Example Camp Program |        |                                    |                                 |                                               |                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                   |        |                                    |                                 |                                               | Crocodile Swamp Crossing. Use short turns, water breaks, and non-elimination rules.                                                                                       |
| 10:10                                             | 20 min | Pack Down the Safari Base          | All families + Burrow Leaders   | Rubbish bags, site checklist                  | Families pack personal gear and clean their section. Meerkats take on safe jobs such as collecting small litter, rolling sleeping bags, and returning markers.            |
| 10:30                                             | 30 min | Closing Circle & Badge Celebration | Camp Leader + badge lead        | Badge tracker, certificates/badges, camp song | Gather for the Meerkat Song, prayer/reflection, acknowledgement of helpers, and recognition of badge tasks completed. Explain any tasks to finish at a later Den meeting. |
| 11:00                                             | —      | Departure                          | Camp Leader + registration team | Sign-out list                                 | Release Meerkats only to their parent/guardian. Confirm the camp area is checked, valuables collected, and the venue is handed back clean.                                |

## Companion Printable Resources

The following companion resources are available from the Safari Adventure Camp website and should be printed or downloaded as required for your Den:

Safari Animal Stencil Pack — eight A4 pages with Lion, Elephant, Giraffe, Zebra, Acacia Tree, and Safari Paw templates for t-shirt activities.

Safari Planning Workbook — editable Safari To Do list and Camp Program example.

Downloadable Meerkat and Parent Kit Lists.

Five editable Parent Communication Templates.

**Document note:** This guide consolidates the content currently provided on the Safari Adventure Camp website. Check venue rules, weather, allergies, adult ratios, and Scouts South Africa guidance before running any activity.

**Den Scouters are responsible for preparing and bringing all activity supplies, first aid equipment, and camp management materials.**

### ***First Aid & Safety Equipment***

- ☐ Comprehensive first aid kit
- ☐ Emergency contact list and protocols
- ☐ Flashlights and emergency lighting
- ☐ Whistle for group calls

### ***Activity Supplies - Lion's Den (Games)***

- ☐ Cones or markers for relay races
- ☐ Balls for games
- ☐ Rope for tug-of-war and other activities
- ☐ Music player and speakers

### ***Activity Supplies - Hippo's Oasis (Water Games)***

- ☐ Water balloons
- ☐ Water guns or spray bottles
- ☐ Sponges for relay races
- ☐ Towels for drying off

### ***Activity Supplies - Crafty Chameleon (Crafts)***

- ☐ Markers, crayons, colored pencils
- ☐ Paper, cardstock, construction paper
- ☐ Glue, scissors, tape
- ☐ Craft materials (beads, string, feathers, etc.)
- ☐ T-shirts for tie-dye or decoration

### ***Activity Supplies - Monkey's Munchies (Cooking)***

- ☐ Cooking utensils (spatula, tongs, ladle)
- ☐ Pots, pans, and cooking vessels
- ☐ Ingredients for meals (as per menu)
- ☐ Cooking fuel (gas, charcoal, wood)
- ☐ Food storage containers

### ***Camp Management & Documentation***

- ☐ Attendance sheets and rosters
- ☐ Badge tracking sheets
- ☐ Incident report forms
- ☐ Daily schedule and activity plan
- ☐ Camera or phone for documentation

### ***Personal Items for Den Scouters***

- ☐ Camping gear (tent, sleeping bag, mattress)
- ☐ Clothing and footwear for outdoor work
- ☐ Personal toiletries and medications
- ☐ Work gloves and apron

### **Important Notes:**

- ✓ Ensure all activity supplies are age-appropriate and safe
- ✓ Keep first aid kit easily accessible at all times
- ✓ Document all activities and badge achievements
- ✓ Prepare backup activities in case of weather changes

Disclaimer – The images in this document were created using AI and are intended to visually represent the activities they are associated with.