

The animals had once again gathered for their annual sleepover at the Library. Chester quickly got everyone quiet so they could talk about what they wanted to do after the Library closed for the night. They were whispering so the Librarians wouldn't hear them.





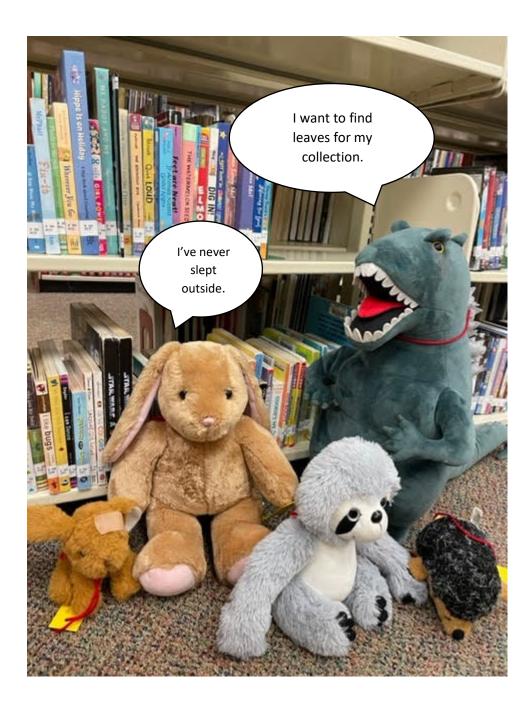
"This is the best night ever," exclaimed Hedgehog.

"I say it's getting boring," said Chester, "We always do this. We need more adventure!"



"Yeah," said Hedwig.

"Hey," said Chester, "I know, let's go camping in the woods! It's my favorite place. What do the rest of you think?"



Some of the animals were scared, but soon others were talking about sleeping under the stars, seeing animals and birds, fishing and eating s'mores all night. It wasn't long before they all agreed.



They talked about all the things they needed to take- a tent, sleeping bags, fishing poles, books, flashlights, a lantern, a compass, ingredients for s'mores, hot dogs...water, bags to carry it all in. They found a great STEM kit at the Library with most of the camping equipment they'd need. Soon they were headed out the door. They left a note so the Librarian wouldn't worry if they were late getting back. They didn't want to ruin their chances for a sleepover next year!







When they got to the woods, they got busy setting up the tent. It was still nice and sunny and the animals had all sorts of things they wanted to do before it got dark. They wanted to go fishing, climb trees, collect leaves and get wood for a fire.



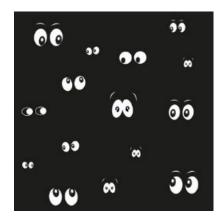
They were worn out when they got back to camp. It wasn't long before they sun went down. They built a fire and huddled around to make s'mores and roast hot dogs. They were great! After singing around the campfire, they headed into the tent to read some books by lantern light before going to sleep.



What a great day. They couldn't wait to tell the kids about all their adventures!



They closed the last book and turned out the lantern and tried to sleep. No one could sleep. They were tired, scared and itchy. No one brought bug spray...The night sounds were all around them and it was very dark. All they could see was each other's eyes. Even Chester and Hedwig were scared.





After what seemed like hours, they decided to go back to the Library and camp inside where it was safe. They brought in all their gear and put a bigger tent up inside. No one was sleepy, so they made some hot chocolate and read some books in the tent. They also found some leftover cookies and marshmallows from Story Time. Boy, did they taste good! Finally, they started feeling sleepy.





They all cuddled up together inside the big tent and fell off to sleep. They were so tired; they were still asleep when the kids came to pick them up. They talked it over and decided maybe they'd not go camping next year!