

The Great Outdoors: Time to pitch a tent!

Camping season begins in earnest as the school year ends. Here are two sources to help plan your outings, whether they are close to home or across the country. First, the Tennessee Valley Authority reservoirs have more than 1,000 recreation areas, and there is a new website that helps you find them.

Go to <http://recreation.tva.com>. Users can easily search for marinas, parks, boat ramps, and campgrounds. Google mapping technology will pinpoint any location and give driving directions. The website lists visitor activities, amenities, fees, hours of operation, and contact information for reservations.

Second, there is a new website that lists every kind of campground and RV park nationwide and Canada, including private, government-operated and affiliated or chain campgrounds. Go to www.accesscamping.com and click on the state of your choice. Complete descriptions and contact details are available by town and region. There is even an iPhone application. For those cyber-challenged, contact Brian Schaeffer at 817-307-0129.