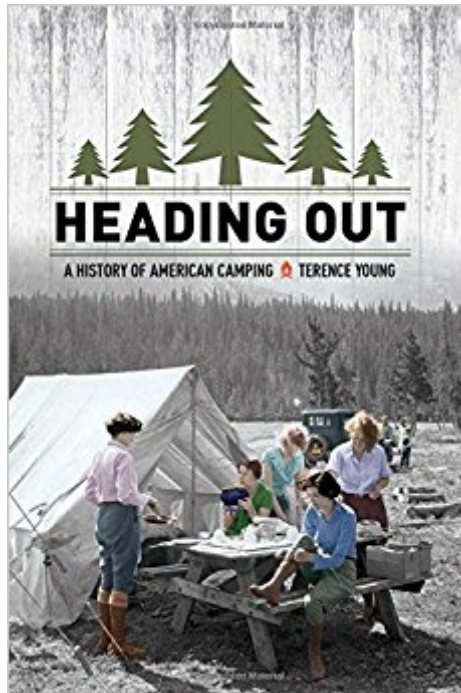




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Heading Out: A History Of American Camping



Synopsis

Who are the real campers? Through-hiking backpackers traversing the Appalachian Trail? The family in an SUV making a tour of national parks and sleeping in tents at campgrounds? People committed to the RV lifestyle who move their homes from state to state as season and whim dictate? Terence Young would say: all of the above. Camping is one of the country's most popular pastimes—tens of millions of Americans go camping every year. Whether on foot, on horseback, or in RVs, campers have been enjoying themselves for well more than a century, during which time camping's appeal has shifted and evolved. In *Heading Out*, Young takes readers into nature and explores with them the history of camping in the United States. Young shows how camping progressed from an impulse among city-dwellers to seek temporary retreat from their exhausting everyday surroundings to a form of recreation so popular that an industry grew up around it to provide an endless supply of ever-lighter and more convenient gear. Young humanizes camping's history by spotlighting key figures in its development and a sampling of the campers and the variety of their excursions. Readers will meet William H. H. Murray, who launched a craze for camping in 1869; Mary Bedell, who car camped around America for 12,000 miles in 1922; William Trent Jr., who struggled to end racial segregation in national park campgrounds before World War II; and Carolyn Patterson, who worked with the U.S. Department of State in the 1960s and 1970s to introduce foreign service personnel to the "real" America through trailer camping. These and many additional characters give readers a reason to don a headlamp, pull up a chair beside the campfire, and discover the invigorating and refreshing history of sleeping under the stars.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Heading Out is full of original research and insight about the history of camping in the United States. Backpackers, campers, RV enthusiasts, and others with an interest in the history of their pastimes will find this book fascinating." — Philip Terrie, Bowling Green State University, author of *Contested Terrain: A New History of Nature and People in the Adirondacks* "From William 'Adirondack' Murray to automobile camping to national parks to RVs, *Heading Out* provides an engaging overview of the American infatuation with camping. Anyone who has ever pitched a tent or hooked up the family Winnebago will enjoy Terence Young's book." — Thomas A. Chambers, Niagara University, author of *Memories of War: Visiting Battlefields and Bonefields in the Early American Republic*

Terence Young is Professor of Geography at California State Polytechnic University. He is the author of *Building San Francisco's Parks, 1850-1930* and coeditor of *The Theme Park Landscapes: Antecedents and Variations*.

Rigorously-researched, beautifully-written, and well laid-out, this book will become a classic camping reference and will be of interest to those who head out themselves. Young takes the reader from camping's modern origins, inspired by William H.H. Murray's 19th century book, *"Adventures in the Wilderness"* to more contemporary backpackers and the long distance trails they favor (as well as the squabbles between backpackers and car campers over all those years).

Heading Out: A History of American Camping by Terence Young is a free NetGalley ebook that I read in late May. This book describes the advent of camping before and after cars, escaping urbanization and visiting national parks (yet encountering regulations from the NPS), little-known cases against segregation (I adored this part of the book the most and wanted to read even about more of it), outfitters (like Coleman and Abercrombie & Fitch, and how a camper can create the most ideal, ready for anything kit), camper trailers and the decline of campground vacations (technology/predictability).

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