

Finding privacy and more comfort in your camp cabin or lodge

By Ann Marie Augustino

Some people love to camp in their tent for privacy, how private can you get with folks a few feet from you? Do you like quiet or turn in early, or have small children who are light sleepers? Look for the areas at a festival that are designated quieter zones. Take care not to put on a show for your neighbors by changing with bright light in your tent. Bring a broom to sweep out your tent from twigs and dirt the children sized brooms are great or the small dust pans with whisk brooms work well also. Bring zip lock baggies for shoes and at least on plastic tub to put your clothing in to keep everything dry in case of heavy rain. Battery operated fans work great to cool you off on warm nights.

Some people like to be inside with indoor plumbing, hot showers, and beds.

How do you find some privacy when bunking with 10 other folks? There is a very nifty device called a bed tent. I found them on Amazon for \$129. This tent fits on you single bed or your bunk bed and the door zips closed once you have gotten into bed. If that is out of your price range there is a very inexpensive and easy to pack fix to add to your privacy; three single flat sheets. The sheets are between \$8.00 to \$12.00 each. Once you have your sheets you will want to purchase triangle sheet suspenders or straps. I found them listed on Amazon for 13.99 but if you wanted to use just the single straps they are as low as \$2.69. You place the straps on your three sheets and place this canopy like contraption under the mattress of your upstairs neighbor. I also suggest a small flashlight to find your way around late at night or to find your way to the rest room. If you are a light sleeper ear plugs and eye masks, can add immeasurably to your experience of communal living.

The question I am frequently asked is; “how in the world can you get comfy on these bunks?” I have several suggestions from my experience and some that have been shared with me by other festival attendees. Comfort for a three or four night stay is important. If you are a slender person you will most likely find the mattress on a bunk comfortable enough. An average weight or plus sized adult might want to consider a topper for the bed. They come in many forms. There are the regular egg crates, memory foam two in foam topper, or gel toppers the price range is from \$20.00 to as high as 89.00 with many in the under \$40.00 range. The other option is to purchase a nice single air mattress and remove the mattress.

I have few other little comfort tips for those in cabins or lodges. I use a plastic tub to pack my bedding, towels and pillow. Once all the bedding is in place the tub can serve as a bed side table for your flashlight, cell phone and is a great place to put soiled clothing. I line the tub with a huge plastic bag as soon as I start packing. When you come home you just carry the plastic bag to the laundry room wash, dry and fold the laundry and repack it with your freshly laundered bedding to store for the next festival. My other tip is keep this plastic tub in the bottom of your closet and fill it with your pillow and blanket when you are ready to go to festival once more.