



WOMEN GONE WILD

In an equal-opportunity America, it's hard to describe the appeal of Becoming an Outdoors-Woman without sounding terribly 1950s. After all, girls can do anything guys can do, right? Why should we need our own camps? For the same reason our daughters still need Girl Scouts: Because sisterhood is real. It's safe. It's empowering. And it's fun.


How I came

Held across the country, BOW programs offer lessons in shooting, fishing, campfire cooking and more to women like me—people who aren't adrenaline-seekers but crave a fresh challenge (and fresh air). Newbies often bring a sister, mom or friend. Some "BOW junkies," as one veteran puts it, forge a family bond that calls them back into the wild each year.

How I left

It was extraordinarily satisfying. New skills. Good people. Tired muscles. An invigorating boost in confidence. I may become a BOW junkie yet.

-Kit Bernardi

 *Becoming an Outdoors-Woman's programs are run independently, often through states' departments of natural resources. A typical weekend trip might cost \$250. Explore online to learn about options near you.*

