

Mav and Moony's Great Camping Adventure



It was the most beautiful summer morning you could imagine!

Mav, could not stop barking with excitement.

"We're going **CAMPING!**"
he woofed, spinning in happy circles.



When they arrived, Mav's best friend Moony was already there — his little dachshund tail wagging like crazy. He had tied a welcome banner between two tall pine trees. It read: "BEST SUMMER EVER — STARTS HERE."



BEST SUMMER EVER —
STARTS HERE.



Then came a thundering... BOOM, BOOM. BOOM.
The whole ground shook. Dishes rattled. A bird flew off a branch.
Everyone looked up. And up. And UP.
It was the biggest dog they had ever seen.



“Hi! I’m Goliath!” the giant dog boomed, his tail wagging like a helicopter.

Mav burst out laughing. “You sure are!”

Moony tried to shake his enormous paw. He had to stand on his very tippy-toes just to reach it — his short dachshund legs stretched as far as they could go.

Goliath grinned his biggest, goofiest grin. This was going to be the best camping trip EVER.



★ ★ Should We... Explore?

After lunch — hot dogs for everyone, and three for Goliath — the families settled in for afternoon naps.

“Should we explore?” Mav whispered, nodding toward the dark edge of the woods.

Moony's eyes lit up. Goliath's tail began to wag.

“Let's GO,” he rumbled.



★ ★ Chester the Squirrel

Deep in the woods they met their first new friend — a tiny red squirrel named Chester, busy stacking acorns into perfect rows.

“In the summer?” laughed Moony.

“I’m very organized,” Chester said proudly, adjusting his tiny acorn tower.



★ ★ The Hidden Pond

Deeper in the woods they found a hidden pond glittering between the trees.

“I’ve always wanted to swim!” said Mav.

Moony — with his very short dachshund legs — took one careful step in.

The water was cold. VERY cold.

“YIKES!” he yelped, leaping back onto dry ground.



★ ★ SPLASH!!!

But Goliath didn't hesitate. He backed up, took a running start, and leaped.

SPLASH!

Water exploded everywhere. Chester — who had followed them — was completely soaked. Everyone was completely soaked.

“GOLIATH!!” they yelled.

Then they burst out laughing.



☆☆ Deeper and Deeper...

They played until their fur was dry again –
and most of Chester's acorns were recovered.
Then Goliath spotted a butterfly. Then a frog. Then a rabbit!
“This way!” he kept bounding forward.
And the forest around them grew thicker...
and quieter... and darker.



★ ★ We're Lost!

Mav stopped walking.

He looked left. He looked right. He turned in a full circle.

Every single tree looked exactly the same.

“Um... which way is camp?” he asked quietly.

Moony's ears drooped all the way to the ground. Goliath sat down — and the ground shook.

They were lost.



★★ Going in Circles...

They tried going left. Dead end — thick brambles.

They tried going right. Goliath got wedged between two trees. Mav pushed from behind. Moony pulled from the front, his little paws digging hard into the dirt. Chester pulled the tail.

They tried going straight. MORE trees.

“I think we’re going in circles,” Moony sighed.



☆☆ Stars in the Dark

The sky turned pink, then orange, then deep purple.
The first stars appeared. Crickets began their evening song.
Fireflies blinked through the shadows.
It was the most beautiful thing Mav had ever seen.
And also the scariest.



★★ Even Big Dogs Get Scared

“What if... no one finds us?” Goliath whispered.

Everyone looked up in surprise. He was so very big. But sometimes even big dogs get scared.

Moony walked over on his short legs and rested his long head on Goliath’s enormous paw.

“I’m scared too,” he said softly. “But we’re together.”



★ ★ Mav Has an Idea

Mav sat very still.

He remembered something his grandma always said:

*“When you don’t know what to do —
talk to God. He always knows exactly where you are.”*

Mav looked up at the stars through the branches.

I have an idea, he said softly.



★★ Let's Pray

"Let's pray," said Mav.

All four friends bowed their heads right there in the dark woods.

"Dear God," Mav prayed, "we're lost and a little scared. But we know You always know where we are. Please help our families find us. Amen."

"Amen," said Moony, Goliath, and Chester. And then they waited.



★ ★ Those Are Our Families!

And then —

“MAVERICK! MOONY! GOLIATH!”

Flashlights blinked through the trees.

Voices floated through the darkness.

Goliath’s huge head shot up.

His tail began to wag.

“Do you hear that?” Moony breathed.

“THOSE ARE OUR FAMILIES!”



★★ GOLIATH!!!

They ran toward the lights, barking their loudest, most joyful barks.

There were their families — flashlights in hand, huge smiles on their faces.

There was so much hugging. And happy tears.

Goliath was SO excited that he accidentally knocked over two grown-ups like bowling pins.

"GOLIATH!!!" everyone laughed.



★ ★ S'mores by the Fire

Back at camp, they all gathered around the warm crackling campfire.

Someone gave Goliath one s'more. He ate it in one bite. So they gave him five more.

Mav leaned on Moony. Moony leaned on Goliath. Chester sat on top of Goliath's great grey head, nibbling a tiny marshmallow.

The stars were brilliant. The lake was still. The night was warm and perfect.



☆☆ Same Time Next Summer?

“I wasn’t scared,” said Goliath. “Well... maybe a little.”

Mav smiled his big bullmastiff smile. “God always knows where we are — even in the darkest woods.”

Moony yawned and snuggled into Goliath’s warm grey fur.

“Same time next summer?”

“DEFINITELY,” said all three at once.



“Call to me and I will answer you.”

— Jeremiah 33:3

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Mav, Moony & Goliath The Great Camping Adventure

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