

PERSONAL CAMPING GEAR CHECKLIST

Remember it is most important to a camper's well being and comfort that he is dry and warm. Parents or guardians are expected to provide the following according to the list below:

Needed equipment

Backpack (frame with hip belt)
Sleeping Bag (waterproof & stuff bag)
*Fiber-Fill not Down Fill
Insulated Ground pad (quality)
*Closed cell non absorbent foam pad
Rain coat with pants
Jacket
Eating equipment (spoon, cup, bowl)
Winter hat & gloves
Personal first aid kit
Bathing suit (summer)
Flashlight with extra batteries
Scout type pocket knife

Wear

Underwear
Regular socks
Wool socks
Long johns
Sweater
Jacket
Heavy coat
Mitten or gloves
Hat
Pants
Insulated boots
Hiking boots

Pack

1 extra
(spring/fall)2 extra
(winter 2 extra)
(winter 1 extra to sleep in)
(winter)
(summer)
(winter)
(fall/winter)
(fall to spring)
1 extra
(winter)
(spring to fall)

Toiletry Kit

Towel
Wash cloth
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Garbage bags (2)
Toilet paper (in plastic bag)
Insect repellent
Writing pad & pen
Comb
Matches
25ft. light rope
Small bar of soap

SLEEPING BAG We advise against buying an expensive "Down" bag for the first time scout. Once wet, these bags are useless (they loose the ability to insolate the heat from your body). Do not send the Scout camping with a "cheap" play or summer type bags and expect the boy to survive. Also Dad's old bag must be looked at carefully since age could have taken its toll on the bags useful condition. A good bag for Spring and Fall would be a 20° bag, this may suffice for Winter depending on who is using it. A -20° is a better choice for winter campouts.

BACKPACK Whatever you purchase, have it fitted to the scout by a knowledgeable person. Many of the packs have adjustable frames giving the scout many years of comfortable use. Be sure the pack has a padded hip belt. This greatly improves the pack comfort. The pack material must be rugged, durable and water repellent. Internal frames are noted as being more uncomfortable in warm weather and are not adjustable.

TO BE AVOIDED Old Uncle Ned's WW II ditty or duffel back. You would ask Uncle Ned, he would tell

you these were a disaster then as well as today. Also, please do not waste your money on a department store bag, they will not last nor do the job needed.

BOOTS & SHOES This is perhaps the most challenging area for the new Scout since size changes will be many over the years. The seasons are split into 2 sections below. It is very important to recognize that any boot being considered be tried on with 2 pair of socks, first, a light weight wicking type sock next to the skin and then a wool sock over top. The boot should be waterproof, if it is not, the leather should be treated with a water repellent material.

WINTER AND EARLY SPRING BOOTS The insulated boot with a removable felt liner is highly recommended. These boots are reasonable in price and quite durable. They provide water protection as well as great warmth and replacement liners are available. We also suggest an extra pair of liners that can be carried in the pack. These extra liners can be worn in the sleeping bag or be used as a change for the first pair when they get wet.

SUMMER AND EARLY FALL BOOTS A regular sturdy above ankle boot or hiking boot is preferred. These should be backed up with an extra pair of sneakers that can be used in the water when needed. Today, quality hi-top sneakers can provide good support but often are more expensive than a pair of boots and less durable to the severe conditions of camping and hiking.

TO BE AVOIDED Sneakers. These are useless; however, on canoe trips where inexpensive footwear is preferred because of the wet conditions, an old pair of sneakers is ideal. Shoes of any type that do not provide adequate support to the ankle and foot arch are considered inadequate. Hiking causes much stress to the foot especially in rough terrain or challenging circumstances with a pack on your back.

GENERAL CLOTHING In the cold weather a good pair of “ Long Johns” are essential. During winter campouts an extra pair (or at least sweat pants and shirt) should be carried in the backpack for sleeping. Extra socks are needed and they should be the wool “ hunting sock” type. Lightweight windbreakers are needed over a sweater in many circumstances. Remember for the best protection against the cold; always layer your clothing. Several layers of thin clothing are much warmer than one heavy layer. Then you do not need to purchase expensive heavy clothing.

TO BE AVOIDED Hats that do not provide warmth or protection. Coats that do not close completely around the neck. When you are cold it is difficult put on gloves or mittens that fit tight. The heavy rubber rain coats are awkward to carry and does not protect the head.