

Cold Weather Camping – Gear Checklist

Outdoor Essentials

- Pocketknife or multi-tool (a Scout must have earned his Totem Chip before he is allowed to carry or use a knife.)
- Orienteering compass
- Personal first aid kit (the troop has a large first aid kit, personal kits should cover the basics)
- Rain gear (rainsuit or poncho)
- Water bottle (1 quart container at a minimum)
- Flashlight or headlamp (consider extra batteries if going on an extended trip)
- Sun protection (sunscreen, Chapstick, sunglasses)
- Matches or other firestarter method (place in a small waterproof container)

Clothing

The troop always travels in Class A uniform. Upon arrival at the campground, the leadership will make the decision as to the uniform or other clothing as needed. The amount of clothing needed is not only weather dependent but should also be based on the individual comfort level of the scout. Clothing should be layered to allow scouts to remove or add layers as necessary.

Base Layer

- thermal underwear (wicking material is often preferable)
- t-shirt and undershorts (at least one change of underwear is preferable, this is also dependent on the weather and length of the trip)
- socks (wicking liner socks under wool socks are often more comfortable and at least one change is preferable. It is also good to have a separate pair of socks to sleep in)
- sleepwear (this will depend on the weather and the individual comfort of the scout)

Mid Layer

- shirt (in addition to the uniform shirt, a long-sleeve shirt)
- pants (in addition to uniform pants)
- fleece pullover or sweatshirt

Outerwear

- coat (insulated coats with removable liners allow for another layer when necessary)
- gloves
- rain gear (as noted above)
- hat (should be an official troop hat)
- stocking cap (in addition to cold weather activity, a stocking cap is good to sleep in)

Footwear

- boots or sneakers (boots are often preferable depending on the conditions, they should either be waterproofed or an extra pair of shoes should be packed)

Sleeping Gear

- Sleeping bag (an insulated, temperature-rated sleeping bag is best. This may be the most important investment for a scout, as nothing is worse than spending a long, cold night in a sleeping bag that is not rated for cold weather. Absent a temperature-rated sleeping bag, bring blankets to add to your regular sleeping bag. Ask the adult leadership about recommendations for sleeping bags)
- Small, packable pillow (this depends on the personal preference of the scout. A pillow case stuffed with spare clothing also works as a pillow)
- Sleeping pad (foam pads from Walmart are good for cold weather as opposed to air mattresses)
- Plastic ground cloth (while the troop has tarps and ground cloths for tents, a piece of plastic polyethylene that is slightly larger than your sleeping bag makes for a good personal vapor barrier in cold or wet weather)
- Stuff sack or heavy duty garbage bags (sleeping bags should be protected, as a wet sleeping bag is quite uncomfortable. A couple of garbage bags are always good to have for wet weather)

Pack (dependent on the type of trip)

- Backpack (rigid-frame backpacks are good if gear must be carried to a campsite by the scout. However, ask adult leaders about recommendations for backpacks before buying one)
- Duffel bag or small cloth suitcase (these are appropriate when gear is unloaded directly from a vehicle or the troop trailer at the campsite)

Personal Articles

- Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, mouthwash
- Liquid hand soap or hand sanitizer (small, travel-size bottle)
- Hand towel (quick-dry towels are nice)
- Brush or comb
- Deodorant (when appropriate)
- Toilet paper (this should be a small amount for emergency use, place in a Ziplock bag)
- If showers are available
 - Shampoo (travel size)
 - Soap
 - Bath towel

Mess Kit

- Metal or plastic plate and bowl
- Utensils (these can be a separate knife, fork and spoon or a combo spork)
- Insulated cup or mug (hot chocolate or similar drinks should never be used in a non-insulated container or water bottle)

Personal Extras (as needed)

- Folding camp chair
- Scout Handbook
- Pen and notepad
- Watch
- Sunglasses
- Camera
- Handkerchief or bandanna

Other Items

- Prescription or over-the-counter medication, rescue inhalers, epi-pens, etc. (Adult leaders should always be informed of any medication required by a scout. This is especially important if the scout is unsure or unable to self-medicate)
- Food items (if a scout requires food or drink beyond what the troop provides, please inform the adult leaders to ensure that the items are properly stored away from insects and wildlife, or other scouts)
- Money (This is only desirable if we are traveling to areas with gift shops or trading posts. It might also be needed for gas station or emergency food stops)

What **NOT** to bring

Electronic devices (the exception to this is if we are traveling a long distance. Games or music players must be used with headphones so as not to disturb the driver and others. Upon arrival at the campsite, all devices will be locked in a vehicle or trailer)

Cell phones (Adult leaders will have phones if parents or scouts need to be contacted)

Sheath knives

Large sums of money or expensive non-camping items

Any material of an offensive or inappropriate manner

Any material specifically prohibited by the Boy Scouts of America (i.e. tobacco, alcohol, drugs, fireworks or other dangerous items)

*As with any situation, use common sense with your gear. Pack according to the weather and the activities of the campout. Take into account your comfort level as well. Try to avoid over-packing but make sure that you have everything you will need for an enjoyable experience. If you have any questions, please check with the adult leadership.