

Explanations of Items on Equipment List

The most important piece of information regarding personal equipment

Your son's name should be on every piece of clothing and equipment that is sent on a campout. We are constantly finding socks, underwear, utensils, etc. Without a name on it, the likelihood of it being returned is reduced.

Clothing

In general, the clothing that is brought on a campout should be able to get dirty, stained or even ripped. Purchasing clothing from Goodwill or other second hand stores is a great option to reduce cost. As with everything on the list, your son's name should be on everything. Please keep in mind that many items on the list are specific to an activity or season.

Long Underwear - Long Underwear should not contain cotton. Underwear should be made from man-made materials (polypropylene, lycra, polyester, etc.) or wool.

Light Wool Socks (Ski Socks) – Lighter socks for spring, fall or sleeping. These socks, like the long underwear, should not contain cotton.

Heavy Wool Socks – Heavy weight, warm socks for winter camping. These socks, like the long underwear, should not contain cotton.

Hiking Socks – Socks to be worn for backpacking and extended hiking. These socks, like the long underwear, should not contain cotton.

Sleep Wear – Your son should always have clothing to sleep in that is different from the clothing he will wear during the day. During the day, you perspire, which in turn can make you cold even in your sleeping bag. During cold weather campouts, sleep wear should also include socks or even a hat.

Uniform

Class A Shirt – Everyone is required to travel in the Class A uniform shirt to and from all campouts.

Class B Shirt – To be worn during many campouts and summer camp

Troop 81 Hat – Must be worn when traveling, like the uniform shirt.

Neckerchief / Bolo – Not required for most campouts unless otherwise specified.

Outerwear

If possible, the same principles for clothing apply to outerwear. Please remember, the clothing will get dirty and will almost always smell like smoke when they get home on Sunday.

Hiking Boots – Hiking boots should offer support, fit properly and preferably be waterproof. Hiking boots will be worn almost 100% of the time. Check the second hand stores for hiking boots. Unlike adults, kids outgrow their boots before they wear out. Scouts footwear will be checked when leaving for a campout, and scouts without proper equipment will not be permitted to go on the outing. Please do not send your son on a hiking activity in boots that are brand new or new to him. Even used boots that have not been worn by him can cause discomfort.

Tennis Shoes – Primarily as a back-up or clean pair of shoes to ride home if necessary.

Shower Sandals – Used mostly at summer camp

Snow Boots – Insulated and waterproof boots to use during cold weather camping.

Winter Coat, Jacket, Fleece, etc. – For many campouts, outerwear might have to cover a 40 or more degree temperature swing. There are many times that layers will have to be put on and taken off numerous times during the weekend. A good rule of thumb is, “if they don’t have it, they can’t put it on”.

Work Gloves – Usually non-insulated gloves to use for campouts that might require them.

Equipment

Backpack / Duffel Bag– A backpack is an item that is not necessary until the time personal gear will be carried for extended distances. For the immediate future, personal gear will move from the trailer to the tent, so a duffel bag will work extremely well. When you decide to shop for a backpack please make sure the pack fits properly. Packs are like clothing, in that they are sized for specific people. For younger scouts that are growing, an adjustable pack is a great idea. If you go to a store and they do not know how to size a pack, go to another store.

Cot – A cot should only be used in warm weather, and is not necessary to purchase. At summer camp, the tents have cots in them.

Sleeping Pad – A foam pad that can be rolled or folded to a small size. These pads will not only keep you off the ground, but will provide insulation during cold weather. Blow up air mattresses are generally not recommended.

Sleeping Bag – A quality sleeping bag is one of the most important pieces of camping gear you will purchase. Sleeping bags are rated with a comfort rating such as 0 degrees, which gives you an idea of the lower end of the bags temperature spectrum. However, the temperature rating is a subjective measure. Bags are also filled with different materials for different purposes. Down fill is an excellent insulator, light to carry and very expensive. Man-made fills (ie. polarguard, holifil, etc.) are a little heavier, less expensive and will still insulate when wet. For our purposes, a sleeping bag with a man-made fill with a rating between 0-10 degrees would be fine.

Ground Cloth – A cheap blue tarp from Wal-Mart. This is usually not necessary.

Blanket – For cold weather camping where the sleeping bag may not be warm enough. It might be folded underneath the sleeping bag and/or put on top.

Stool / Chair – This is optional and purely for comfort. Please remember we do have size constraints when traveling.

Camelback / Water Bottle – Something to carry water while hiking. It should have some kind of strap system or belt so you do not have to carry it in your hands.

Mess Kit / Eating Utensils – Could be as simple as a plastic plate and an old knife/fork/spoon or an actual mess kit. Mess kits can be purchased for as little as \$5 at Wal-Mart.

Mug – Plastic or Metal mug that can hold hot or cold liquids.

Knife / Multi-Tool – A folding knife with a blade shorter than 4 inches may be carried once your son has earned the totin' chip card.

Walkie Talkie, Playing Cards, Camera – Optional items, many boys do not bring.

Compass – May not be necessary for many camping trips. This is a piece of equipment that will be necessary for campouts where there are competitions like Camporee or Klondike Derby.

Whistle – Should only be used to signal in case of an emergency and is considered a piece of safety equipment.

Rope – Small amount (50 feet) of light rope can be used to secure gear, hang wet clothes, etc.

Personal Gear

Medicines – Any medication must be checked in with a leader. Complete dosage instructions need to be included.

First Aid Kit – The troop has a complete first aid kit at all times, however, a small personal kit in a plastic baggie is nice to carry along. Please see the scout handbook for items that should be included in a personal first aid kit.