

# Personal Camping Equipment List

The following is a list of the basic items which each Scout will need for his comfort, health and safety while in the outdoors.

## BACKPACK

This may be either an *external* or *internal frame type* which is of a size that fits your Scout. Do not buy a pack which is too large, but remember that your Scout will grow and be capable of carrying bigger loads. Unless your Scout already has a backpack, it would be best if this purchase is delayed until you have the opportunity to visit with the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster concerning the types and cost of various standard models of backpacks

## BACKPACK COVER

This is a nylon cover that fits over the entire pack together with the items strapped to the outside of the pack (i.e., sleeping bag, ground pad, tent) and is used to protect the pack and its contents against inclement weather while in transit or at night. A large black garbage bag is not an adequate replacement for a backpack cover. Although a garbage bag may be used under the pack cover for added protections. [Backpacks are not kept in Troop tents at night](#)

## BOWL

Lexan or plastic is lighter and easy to handle. A large butter tub works great too

## CANTEEN/WATER BOTTLES

*Do not use metal canteens.* They tend to corrode and will retain smells and tastes from the contents. Purchase two, one liter plastic or lexan, water bottles with screw tops and retainer straps (to keep from losing the lid). One water bottle should have a wide mouth and the other one a narrow mouth. For long hikes and bike rides it is often convenient to have a water bladder and tube that can be put in a backpack.

## CLOTHING

The official scout uniform (minus neckerchief, medals of all kinds, merit badge and O/A sash) will be worn when traveling and as directed by the Troop leaders while in camp. Otherwise, jeans, shorts and scout related t-shirts may be worn around camp. In winter, a long sleeved shirt to wear under the uniform shirt as well as thermal top and bottoms, come in handy for wear and sleep. A sweat shirt, sweat pants and wool stocking cap and gloves are also nice to have along. Solid colored utility or cargo pants may be worn, but please, **no camouflage colors.** Changes of underclothing and socks for each day should be packed. Personal hygiene articles (i.e., tooth paste, tooth brush, deodorant, sun screen, insect repellent, chap stick) should be packed in a toilet kit or zip lock bag. Leather work gloves are handy for working around dutch ovens and for building cooking fires. The Patrol Leaders will go over any other personal item needed for a specific camp-out

**Note:** Cotton clothes are a poor choice for camping, as cotton is bulky, cold and slow to dry when wet. Whenever possible, one or two, light layers, made of quick drying synthetic materials, such as supplex or polypropylene should be used. Polartec, or a similar synthetic fleece, is excellent for layering and remains warm even when wet.

### **COMPASS**

See the *Scout Handbook* or the Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmasters for the different types of compasses that can be used. There is no need to purchase an expensive lensatic compass and global positioning systems (GIS) are not to be used on camp-outs. Use of the GPS will be taught to Scouts in the Venture Patrol

### **DRINKING CUP**

A drinking cup with straight sides (i.e., metal Sierra or lexan) is best. Each Scout will need his own personal drinking cup on all camp-outs

### **DUNK NET**

This is a mesh bag used to dunk dirty eating equipment in the boiling dish and rinse water after eating. This is not required, however it is handy for keeping hands out of boiling water.

### **EATING UTENSILS**

A lexan spoon and fork is all that is needed. If you already have a metal camping knife, spoon and fork kit, use it.

### **FIRST AID KIT**

A personal first aid kit can be purchased or made up of items on hand at home. The Boy Scout Handbook contains information as to the contents needed for the kit. It is strongly suggested that mole skin and mole foam be included in the kit.

### **FLASHLIGHT/HEADLIGHT**

A small flashlight or headlight which uses "AA" or "AAA" batteries is sufficient. Fresh batteries should be placed in the flashlight before each outing and extra batteries should be brought on long term camps. Be sure to pack an extra bulb too. To preserve night vision, especially for star gazing, a red filter or some red plastic cellophane and a rubberband that can fit over the light, are recommended

### **GROUND PADS/SELF-INFLATING PADS**

Ground pads/self-inflating pads provide for comfort and serve as insulation when camping on the ground. The pads come in varying sizes (i.e., three-quarter, full and extra long) and thickness (i.e., normal, extra thick). The best buy is a single cell foam sleeping pad in 3/4 (supports the upper-core portion of the body) or full size. Self-inflating pads can develop leaks or tear and tend to be heavier

### **HIKING BOOTS**

Make sure that hiking boots are properly fit, are worn with proper socks and wicking/liner socks, are broken in and are waterproof. There is nothing worse than trying to hike with a backpack and blisters.

### **KNIVES**

After a Scout has earned the *Totin'Chip* (see Boy Scout Handbook), he will be allowed to carry and use a folding utility (pocket) knife like the Swiss Army, camping or any of the official Boy Scout knives. No sheath knives are allowed.

### **MATCHES**

These are an optional item which, if brought, should be stored in a waterproof container.

### **PLASTIC BAGS**

Small plastic bags (i.e., bread sacks, newspaper sacks, food storage bags without zip lock tops) can be used to put over socks in boots to keep feet dry in really wet weather. They can also be used to store wet clothes to keep the rest of your pack dry.

### **PLATE**

A 10-inch aluminum, lexan or plastic plate is all that is needed. You do not need to buy a mess kit. A frisbee works great too and you can play with it when you aren't eating off it.

### **RAIN SUIT/PONCHO**

A two piece rain suit, with coat and trousers, for rainy or windy weather is best. Make sure it is large enough to go over clothing, is ventilated, is sturdy to prevent ripping or tearing and does not weigh too much. Scouts who are still growing may find that a poncho is less expensive.

### **SLEEPING BAG LINER**

You can use a regular cotton/flannel bed sheet, folded lengthwise and sewn at the bottom and up one side. This serves as extra insulation in colder weather and also catches dirt and debris if dirty feet are put in the bag. In warmer weather, the sleeping bag can be used as a mattress and the liner as a cover.

### **SLEEPING BAGS**

There are several styles (i.e., mummy, rectangular) of sleeping bags which vary in content (i.e., polyester, halofill, qualofill, down), size and weight according to its intended use. The factors you should consider are the size, weight and cost as well as the weather conditions under which it will be used. There is no sense in buying a sleeping bag for arctic conditions unless you Scout plans on doing a lot of camping up North in the winter

### **TOILET PAPER**

Never leave home without it!!! Take out the center core, flatten it and store it in a zip lock bag

## **ZIP LOCK BAGS**

Zip lock plastic bags are used to pack all clothing and other articles to keep them dry inside your pack

## **PROHIBITED ITEMS**

- Sandals or other open-toed shoes (shower shoes are recommended for wear in the showers at camp but may not be worn to walk to and from the showers.)
- Electronic equipment (such as radios, CD or tape players, Game Boys, TV's, calculators, palm pilots, etc.)
- Gum, candy, and soft drinks
- Candles and propane/butane heaters, aerosol cans of any kind
- Tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs or other substances
- Fireworks explosives, firearms or ammunition of any kind
- Sheath knives or any pocket knife with a blade over four inches long
- Personal hatchets, axes or saws
- Slingshots, water cannons, water balloons etc.
- Glass bottles of any kind

**Pagers and cell phones may not be carried by Scouts on camp-outs or at events.**