

Personal Camp Kit List

What a Scout needs for a weekend camp

By Scouter John Overall Sept 2019

This is a camp gear suggestion list for a weekend camp. This is an all-season list. What you actually bring will depend on the weather and the type of activity.

Important note on packing

Scouts are big people. Parents must not pack their gear for them. Doing so will lead to:

"Sarah, it's raining! Where's your rain coat?"

"I can't find where my Daddy put it!"

At most, parents can help their Scouts lay out their gear and ensure that everything is there. They should never actually put the gear into the pack. This is for two reasons. Scouts need to know where something is packed so that they can find it, and Scouts may not be able to pack their gear as tightly as their parents can, leading to problems when it comes time to repack at the end of camp.

Camp Gear

Packs

- Large backpack or duffel bag
- Day pack: last year's school pack makes a great one

Sleepwear

- Sleeping Bag: Warm as the weather may drop below freezing. May want to get a liner for cold conditions
- Insulated sleeping pad: **closed-cell** foam, Therm-a-Rest, etc.
- Pillow, if desired, compact camping version

Eating Gear

- Unbreakable plate, bowl, and mug
- Knife, fork, and spoon
- Mesh ditty bag: for hanging dishes to dry

Outerwear

- Rain gear: There is always a risk of rain
- Warm jacket
- Snow pants (winter only)

Footwear

- Running shoes and/or hiking boots
- Waterproof boots or winter boots

Clothes

- Troop uniform: shirt, necker, and woggle
- Navy blue trousers
- Navy blue shorts (warm weather only)
- Tee shirts
- Long underwear
- Warm fleece or sweater
- Warm clothes for sleeping, such as jogging pants or fleece
- Underwear
- Pair of bread bags for wearing over socks to keep them dry if footwear is wet
- Dry socks: thin liner socks and wool or fleece socks. Two layers help prevent blisters.
- Dry socks
- Dry socks
- Mittens and gloves: even in the spring or fall
- Toque: even in summer
- Sun hat: light-coloured Tilley-style is the best
- Large mesh ditty bag to store dirty clothing
- Swimsuit and towel (if specified)

Scout Gear

- Fox 40 whistle
- [B-P Kit](#); only once you have made it
- Flashlight: Compact LED headlamp recommended
- Water bottle (full)
- Campfire blanket, optional

Miscellaneous

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Comb
- Medication: must be noted on the medical form
- Sun screen (in season)
- Bug repellent (in season)
- Watch
- Smile

Please do not bring

- Food besides the food on the menu
- Any electrical or electronic devices besides flashlights and watches
- Non-folding knives
- Family heirlooms
- Anything that might tempt one to disregard the Scout Law

Preparing for the Cold

Dress in Layers

Proper clothing is essential for keeping warm, dry, and comfortable in the winter. Wearing multiple layers is both warm and allows Scouts to take layers off and on so that they always have enough to be warm, but not so much that they sweat. Modern polyester or merino wool fleece and long underwear is the best: It is warm, lightweight, retains much of its warmth when wet, and dries quickly. Avoid cotton. **Insulation must be spread over the entire body.** Your layers should be something like this:

1. Base layers: Long sleeved tee-shirts, long underwear, thin socks
2. Insulation layers: Sweaters, warm pants (fleece is best; jogging pants also work), heavy socks (fleece or wool)
3. Winter jacket, snow pants, winter boots
4. Hat and neck-warmer, gloves and mittens

Bring extra clothes, particularly socks and mitts, so that you can change out of wet clothing. Remember to dry any wet clothing.

Warmth at Night

- Clothes worn to bed must be completely dry. Anything worn during the day will be at least slightly damp from sweat. One method is to put on the next day's clothes right before bed.
- Wear a full set of clothes to bed, including long underwear, socks, and a balaclava or toque.
- Bring two sleeping bags (used one inside the other) and a sleeping pad.
- Boots with removable liners are the best.
- Put the next day's clothes and your boot liners in the bottom of your sleeping bag so that they will be warm when it is time to put them on.