

New Scout Basic Camping Guide:

Disclaimer

This is a basic checklist for new scouts on things they should have. It's a general guide only and does not cover any specific requirements for special camping events (such as a bike for a mountain biking campout) or extreme weather.

Packing Advice from an Adult

It is recommended that you only assist your scout in packing for camp. This is a great time to slowly get them to develop an appropriate level of initiative and judgment. They won't do that if you do it for them.

It is ok to:

- Ask probing questions about what they need and don't need.
- Ask them why.
- Help them generate a list to work from and then only check it over and provide coaching.

Soon, they will be doing it for themselves. Trust me, my own son (at age 15) can pack up entirely for a trip on his own and rarely forgets something.

Gear Advice

- Starting out, **DON'T SPLURGE** on \$\$\$ gear.
 - It may be durable, but it can grow legs and it can be quickly outgrown.
 - Their tastes may also change with the time and/or technology.
 - When unsure, ask us older leaders for advice. We've been where you are and may have suggestions or even hand-me-downs.
- **PUT NAMES ON STUFF YOU WANT BACK!** Black permanent marker will be your friend here.
- **USE A PLASTIC STORAGE BIN OR DUFFLE BAG IN THE BEGINNING** as your container, in lieu of an expensive full-size backpack.
 - An old school-backpack is a good idea for a young scout's first few campouts/hikes
- Basic concept, a scout's kit is a **BAG of BAGS**. Pack clothing and other items in gallon plastic zip-lock bags and pack those bags into a duffel or storage bin. This helps in a sudden rain shower while setting up and striking camp.

Where to Find Lists

Scout Handbook (in the 14th Edition, pages 237-287, Chapters 8 & 9).

Checklists are located:

- The Scout Basic Essentials, pg 238-239
- Warm & Cold Weather Clothing Checklist, pg 242-243
- Personal Camping Checklist, pg 268

Scout Basic Essentials

- Pocketknife – caution that he can't use it until he earns his Tote'n chit – **NO SHEATH KNIVES!**
- Personal First-aid kit – Start with some band-aids of various sizes, he will learn more as he has requirements signed off
- Extra Clothing – A jacket, long pants and/or extra socks when hiking (comfort if weather turns or sunset)
- Rain Gear, or poncho – Lightweight but durable, a "modified" trash bag will do in a pinch, but won't cover head or legs
- Water Bottle – Some way to carry it (backpack pocket or belt attachment)
- Flashlight – Spare batteries for more than 1 night
- Trail Food – **NO PERSONAL FOOD ON CAMPOUTS** – Troop will provide
- Sun Protection – Small container of sunscreen and a hat
- Map and Compass – A compass is needed by the first summer camp. Maps will be provided, if required.
- Insect repellent – Depending on expected conditions – **NO AEROSOL CANS!**
- SCOUT HANDBOOK – A requirement for rank advancement. Consider a protective cover, it needs to last 4-8+ years!

Clothing (appropriate for the Weather: Hot [+], Cold [-])

- Long sleeved shirt [+] [-]*
- T-shirt+/Warm shirt [-]*
- Hiking Shorts [+]
- Long pants [+] [-]*
- Sweater or warm jacket [+] [-]*
- Long Underwear [+] [-]*
- Hiking boots (my son was not a believer until his tennis shoes were soaked to his socks by morning dew on a sunny day)
- Sturdy camp shoes (NO OPEN TOED SHOES, Tennis or Running shoes are okay).
- Extra Socks [+] [-]*
- Hat with brim for shade [+] / warm hat [-]* (2nd knit hat for sleeping in cold weather)
- Insulated parka or coat with hood [-]
- Bandanna
- Gloves * (leather work gloves are always in my kit somewhere)
- Extra Underwear (for longer trips > 1 overnight)

* These items should be made of wool or a warm synthetic fabric. **Avoid cotton clothing when the weather might be cool, cold, or wet. COTTON IS ROTTEN!!** It also takes a long time to dry.

Personal Camping Gear

- Sleeping Kit (sleeping bag, sleeping pad or air mattress, pillow)
- Mess Kit (plate, bowl, spoon, cup)
- Toiletries (soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, towel, hand sanitizer, etc) [Prescribed & OTC Drugs—controlled by adults]
- Optional items: Watch, camera, sunglasses, specific gear for activities.

DO NOT BRING

- Glass Containers
- Personal Food
- Sheath Knives
- Lighters
- Fireworks
- Aerosol Cans
- Electronics (i.e. ipods, radios, game-boys, battery operated games or toys)
- ***Do not bring anything that can't get wet, broken, crushed, ripped, torn, lost, or is otherwise irreplaceable.***