

Basic Packing for Camping Trips

While each camping trip will have its own packing recommendations, here are some basics to get you started, as well as a few words of explanation.

As it frequently rains when we camp, we recommend that your gear be weather-proof. For example, you may want to pack your clothing in one- or two-gallon Zip-Lock bags. Additionally, you might line your duffel bag/backpack with a trash bag, and put your sleeping bag in a trash bag, too. This will make you a "happy camper" if it rains!

For most trips, you don't necessarily need a backpack. You can use a duffel or other similar bag. Remember, though, you will have to be able to carry your gear some distance on some trips. A bag with shoulder straps is much easier to carry. **Remember that we wear our Class A Uniforms when traveling on trips.**

Essentials to Pack:

- Poncho or Rain jacket (pack this where you can get to it in a hurry)
- Flashlight (pack this so you can find it in the dark)
- Bandana (useful for many applications)
- Scout Handbook (you will often get requirements signed off on trips)
- Eating gear (cup, bowl, spork; can be a set or from home; not disposable)
- Reusable Water bottle – not a disposable bottle
- Clothing for the season and length of the trip (may include a bathing suit)
- Hat (to keep the sun off your face, or for warmth)
- Extra socks/shoes/boots/sandals (in case yours get wet)
- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, deodorant, soap, shampoo, etc.)
- Washcloth or small towel
- Sleeping Bag
- Sleeping Pad (Thermarest or foam; not required, but recommended)
- Prescription medication, if necessary (pack in a plastic bag and let Adult Leaders who are going on the trip know about it)
- Tent with plastic ground cloth (most Scouts share tents with other Scouts)
- Spare trash bags (just in case)

Optional Items to Pack:

- Deck of playing cards
- Pocket knife (if you have a Totin' Chip and know how to use a knife safely)
- Matches or lighter (generally not necessary & must be used only when appropriate)
- Camp chair or stool
- Sunglasses
- Cord or rope
- Pencil & paper
- Money (sometimes we stop for fast-food on the way, trip-dependent)

Do Not Bring:

- Junk food
- Soft drinks
- Electronics (including radio, cell phone, iPod, etc.)
- Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs, Firearms, Dangerous Stuff