

New Scout Overnight Checklist

Don't run out and buy a backpack and a bunch of gear for your first trip. We know you won't have all of the gear you'll eventually need, such as a back pack or mess kit, the first time you go camping. You can put together what you need out of common household items. Pack everything in a backpack, duffel or gym bag, as you might have to carry it a ways. Pack your clothes in one or two gallon zip-lock bags. Try to tie everything into a neat package, without loose items. A day-pack/book bag is handy during the day. You can look up the gear checklist in your Scout Handbook, or use the one below to make sure you have the gear you need. The troop does have a few loaner packs and mess kits for new scouts. First come, first serve.

Clothing: Bring a change of underwear for each day. Wear your uniform for the drive to camp. You will be outdoors all weekend, so plan your clothing accordingly. May evenings can drop near freezing, even though the day has been warm. Rain or heavy dew is VERY likely in the spring. Try to avoid cotton clothes -- they get damp easily. Wool and synthetics are better for cool weather. Dress in layers, so you can adjust your temperature by removing/adding layers as required. A good mix would be shorts & t-shirt for mid day, plus a pair of long pants and long sleeve shirt for the evening. Adding a sweater & light jacket & stocking cap makes sitting by the campfire more comfortable. You'll depend on your clothing for warmth – not a fire!

Footwear: Waterproof hiking boots are best. Tennis shoes are ok - but bring a second pair, because they will be soaked. Bring a couple of extra pairs of wool or acrylic socks so you can keep your feet dry. Avoid cotton socks.

Poncho or raincoat. Bring it even if rain is not predicted.

Mess kit, or an unbreakable bowl, cup, and tableware. You will wash & reuse this all weekend.

Canteen or water bottle (a sealable 1 qt. wide mouth bottle for camping, not a sports bottle w/ straw)

Sleeping gear: A sleeping bag, or 2 or 3 blankets & large safety pins. If you have a light-weight bag, bring a blanket along too. You need insulation underneath you as well as on top. A closed-cell foam sleeping pad makes for warmer, more comfortable sleep. Skip the full size pillow. Either bring a small camp pillow, or bring a pillow case that you can stuff with your extra clothes or jacket.

Toilet kit: Soap, washcloth, towel, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, and small roll of toilet paper.

First Aid Kit: A small, personal first aid kit is always handy. A couple of gauze pads, a half-dozen band aids, and a couple of alcohol wet-wipes in a small zip-lock bag will do it. The troop has full first aid kits.

Bug repellent: A small amount. No more than a 4 oz bottle, 1 oz preferred. No spray cans!

Sunscreen: An ounce or two in a film can or small bottle.

Hat: Wide brimmed, to keep the sun off your neck.

Prescription medicines (turn into adult leader in a plastic bag with a note for dosage).

Flashlight -- a small, 2 cell penlight or LED headlamp is ideal. Keep it small and light.

Scout book -- your handbook is where your work gets signed off, so bring it.

Other stuff – optional for your first outing:

- Pocket knife. A lock-blade is recommended. (you must earn a Toten Chip before you use it)
- Compass: A liquid filled, clear-plastic compass (not a box compass). The Silva Polaris is under \$10.
- Trail-food or snacks -- keep in a zip lock bag marked with your name. This will need to be kept in a patrol box at night or "bear bagged" to keep skunks & raccoons out of your tent. As we have learned, raccoons can unzip packs & duffel bags. Never have food in a tent!!
- Fishing gear. A break-down pole, or bring hooks & line and use a tree branch.

Don't bring:

- Sheath knives or hatchets.
- Electronic games/radios (other than ham radios, if you are a licensed ham)
- Heavy stuff that is not essential for the weekend (such as canned soft drinks).

Mark everything with T-85 and your name or initials (even your underwear!)