

Scout equipment for the new and seasoned Scout

The purpose of this document is to help inform Scout parents on the equipment needs for a successful scout career - especially for scouts new to the program. This is to be used as a general guide and we encourage you to talk to an adult leader for any specific recommendations/concerns.

Scouting does not require that you purchase a lot of expensive equipment for you and your scout. In fact, you or your scout may already have some or all of the equipment that is needed. It is not required that you go out and purchase top-of-the-line equipment from a store like REI for a first year scout (or even for a seasoned scout). You will find suggested retail locations to purchase affordable equipment and prices ranges for each. The new scouts won't be going on any trips that require top-of-the-line equipment and new scouts grow quickly - chances are they will outgrow their equipment before it is even worn out. The troop runs a quartermaster store that has some equipment that scouts and adults can use for camping trips and overnight events. Below you will find a list of suggested personal items you and your scout will want to own and at the end of this guide you'll find equipment that you can borrow from the quartermaster. Troop 61 also provides a convenient packing list for campouts on the troop website:

<http://troop61.info/chklst.htm>

Also keep in mind that we do camp year round and some trips require specific items (eg. extra sleeping bag on the freeze out, swim wear for trips that involve water etc.) and this information will be noted for each specific event.

Scout equipment makes a great gift!!

Suggested Scout equipment

Tent - Tents may be provided by the troop. These need to be signed out for each trip. Personal tents may be used. Personal tents that have a fly that do not reach the ground are not recommended as these don't keep the elements out during inclement weather. See the tent buying guide below for more information on personal tents.

Meal Kit - Aluminum mess kits are ok. Meal kits can be a pre-assembled camping kit or an assortment of plastic or melamine items from home. No disposable plastic or paper dinnerware is allowed. Scouts are asked to bring their mess kit in a mesh bag with drawstring for hanging. An inexpensive laundry bag works great. If it does not have a drawstring, add a shoelace to the corner. Please do not use a mess kit in a plastic bag or Ziploc bag. The purpose of the mess kit and drip bag is to teach the campers proper dishwashing. A spork is recommended for use as a utensil. A spork is a utensil that works as a fork, spoon and knife and they are very affordable.

Cost: none (for existing gear) to \$30

Affordable meal kits can be found at Walmart, Target etc. You can also assemble these yourself. Other Options include a BPA free meal kit:

<http://www.amazon.com/Light-Fire-6-Piece-BPA-Free-Container/dp/B0013L4EL6>

Water Bottle - Always bring at least one FULL water bottle. It is recommended that scouts have a

CLEAR (Nalgene type) water bottle. It is important that they know how much water is available to them and how much they are drinking. Camelbaks/Aluminum bottles are not recommended.

Cost: none (for existing gear) to \$20

Affordable Nalgene type water bottles can be found at Tjmaxx, Walmart, Target etc.

Sleeping bag - We recommend a synthetic bags because they work well, are simple to care for (machine washable) and are much less expensive. Most bags have a temperature rating on the tag. It will say something like: +30° or -20°. This tells you, roughly, the minimum temperature that will be comfortable while in that bag. Keep in mind how you sleep - temperature-wise, that is. Are you a hot sleeper? Or do you always seem to be colder than your friends? If you're a cold sleeper, for example, go with a bag that's rated for colder temperatures. For warm weather camping, it is ok to bring a square shaped sleeping bag, they are typically rated for 30-40 degrees. Most boys already have this style sleeping bag for sleepovers. In addition we recommend a mummy style sleeping bag rated for 0 degrees for the colder camping trips. We have a yearly freeze-out and having two sleeping bags is recommended for this trip (a mummy bag to put inside of a square warm weather bag)

Cost: none (for existing gear) to \$150

Affordable cold weather mummy style sleeping bags can be found at Walmart (roughly \$40):

Coleman

<http://www.walmart.com/ip/Coleman-Mummy-Sleeping-Bag-with-54-Ounce-Coletherm-Insulation/5646065#ProductDetail>

Suisse:

<http://www.amazon.com/Suisse-Sport-Alpine-Double-Sleeping/dp/B002H10PW8>

Sleeping pad - A sleeping pad is one of the most important pieces of camping gear you'll ever own. In addition to keeping you comfortable while sleeping someplace hard, the pad will also insulate your body from the warmth-grabbing ground. A sleeping pad is something you'll never grow out of, and as long as you take care of it, it'll last for many years. So it might be worth investing in a good one.

- Closed-cell foam pads are usually thin, lightweight and durable foam pads that give you adequate insulation but won't provide lots of comfort and padding.
- Open-cell foam pads are lightweight and softer than closed-cell pads but won't be quite as warm or durable.
- Self-inflating pads are thin pads that usually have a nylon shell covering open-cell foam. They provide good insulation and warmth but are more expensive, heavier and can pop.

Cost: none (for existing gear) to \$40

Affordable sleeping pad can be found at Walmart (roughly \$25):

<http://www.walmart.com/ip/Wenzel-Roll-n-Go-Mat/16617775>

Sleeping bag Liner - One of the handiest and most underrated pieces of sleep gear, the sleeping bag liner is truly multipurpose. In warm weather, it can be used alone as an ultra-light sleeping bag. When slipped inside a sleeping bag, it'll boost the warmth of your bag by 10 to 30 degrees and will keep it cleaner and reduce wear and tear. Scouts may also make a sleeping bag liner out of fleece fabric.

Cost: none (if you make one) to \$40

Affordable sleeping bag liners can be found at Walmart and Kmart (roughly \$15).

Backpack - There are two types of backpacks: External frames have a metal framework on the outside. Internal-frame packs have their support structure hidden within the pack like a skeleton. External-frame packs are less expensive, and preferred for new scout since we do base camping for our trips (we park within a ½ mile or so of the camping area) Longer backpack trips are reserved for scouts that have attained a certain rank (typically first class) and it may take several years to reach this achievement. For these trips we recommend an internal backpack. Feel free to ask an adult ASM for specific recommendations. Duffle bags can be used, but this form of transporting gear is difficult for a scout to manage.

Cost: none (for existing gear) to \$200

Affordable backpacks can be found online (\$40) or even through Craigslist.

http://www.campmor.com/outdoor-products-dragonfly-external-frame-youth-pack-2.shtml?source=Ci&ci_sku=90387&ci_gpa=pla&ci_kw={keyword}

Footwear - Make sure your footwear fits right. Comfort, comfort, comfort. If something doesn't feel right in the store, it will be torture to wear. It is not necessary to buy your scout heavy-duty boots, as they are generally carrying lighter loads in their backpacks. That means they should provide reasonable support to mid-ankle, possess a "deep-cleated" tread for traction, and offer reasonable flex for comfort. Wear the same socks or sock combination that you will wear hiking for fitting. Growing scouts may use a pair of shoes/boots 3-4 times before outgrowing them, and they are rather expensive. We always recommend the use of non-cotton socks (wool, synthetic etc).

Cost: none (for existing gear) to \$100

Affordable footwear can often be found at Tjmaxx, Sports Authority, Dicks etc. Look for sale items, plan ahead.

Clothing - The choices and selection in hiking and camping clothing is quite mind-boggling with price ranges to match. In spite of this wide array, there is a basic principle of "layering" that has been proven to work in the conditions that scouts will be in. Layering works because multiple layers of clothes insulate better than 1 bulky layer, and layers can be removed or added depending on the current weather conditions. Garments used as inner layers (polypropylene underwear) and mid-layers (fleece jackets, down jackets, etc) serve to insulate, while outer layers (nylon or Gortex® windbreakers, breathable rain gear, etc) serve to protect you from wind, rain, and snow. These all combine to keep your body, legs, head and hands warm and dry.

Cost: none (for existing gear) to \$100

Affordable clothing can be found at TJmaxx, Target, Walmart etc. Non-brand names work as well as brand name items (like Under Armour, North face etc). Look for synthetic fabrics (Cotton “kills”) and sales items and plan ahead.

Tent buying guide - Tents can be borrowed from the quartermaster. Preference is always given to a scout when loaning tent equipment. Adults may wish to purchase a personal tent for themselves or for their scout.

Tents come in all shapes and sizes. Backpacking tents are most often shaped like domes, tunnels or wedges. We recommend buying a dome shaped tent for the type of camping we will be doing.

You'll want a tent that's going to breathe and be vented. Look for a tent with plenty of mesh panels and vents that promote airflow. For rainy conditions, make sure there's ample space between the rain fly and the tent. Always look for a tent that has a rain fly that reaches all the way to the ground. This will protect you from inclement weather. Many tents come with a vestibule, this provides protection of personal gear without sacrificing sleeping area.

Don't overspend. Why buy an ultralight, tricked-out \$500 tent when a \$60-\$80 model will work just fine? In general, the higher the price tag, the lighter-weight and more durable the tent and its poles will be.

Cost: none (for existing tent/troop provided tent) to \$200

Affordable tents can be found online and in stores like Sports Authority, Dicks. Look for sale items, plan ahead.

Tent models are forever changing, this Kelty is an example of an affordable tent that will perform exceptionally well.

<http://www.kelty.com/p-604-acadia-2.aspx>

Other equipment - Most of the other equipment can be borrowed from the quartermaster. The troop has enough “extra” equipment for all scouts and adult leaders for any given camping event.

Bringing a personal chair is always encouraged on campouts.

The following items **do not** need to be purchased:

- Tent - there is a supply of various troop tents that can be borrowed.
- Cooking equipment
 - Pots/Pans/dutch ovens
 - Cooking utensils
 - Stoves
- Saws/Axes
- Rope
- Tables