

BSA Troop 407, Novi, Michigan

What to bring on a weekend campout

Many people have asked for a list of suggested items for Scouts to bring on a weekend campout. Keep in mind that the needs may vary from campout to campout, but in general, here are some suggestions.

Please remember that the Scout should pack his own gear at home. Parents should *not* do it for him - he will never learn how unless he does it himself. He can work from this checklist, and he should check with his patrol leader to see if there's anything else he needs.

Most campouts:

- Pack or duffel type bag - with plastic bags to pack clothes in so they don't get wet
- Scout uniform with neckerchief and slide - worn for travel, dinner, chapel
- Boots / Sturdy shoes (for hiking)
- Sneakers (for around camp)
- 2 pair underwear
- 2 Tee shirts (preferably Troop 407, or Scout-related)
- Mess Kit or bowl & plate; spoon, spork or silverware kit; mug or cup (for hot or cold drinks)
- Metal or plastic water bottle (Nalgene) or canteen for water only
- Toilet Kit: Soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, small hand towel, brush or comb
- Sleep system: Sleeping bag and ground pad / thin mattress (foam or air), small pillow
- Flashlight, pocket knife and Totin' Chip
- Pen and paper (a small notebook is handy for taking notes, sketching paw prints, etc.)
- Scout handbook (so he can have another Scout sign off any rank requirements they happen to cover)
- Compass
- Any medications needed - clearly labeled with medication form and in a ziplock bag
- Money (one dollar in coins)

Plus, for warmer weather camping (spring and summer)

- 2-3 pairs of socks (poly cotton blend - avoid 100% cotton)
- 1 sweatshirt or light jacket
- 1 pair shorts
- 1 pair light long pants
- Swimsuit (if aquatics is in the plan)
- Cap or hat
- Raincoat or rain jacket
- Insect repellent (non-aerosol)
- Sun block

Plus, for cool weather camping (fall and early winter)

- 4 pairs warm socks (wool or poly cotton blend)
- 1 pair long underwear
- 2 long sleeve shirts
- 1 sweater or sweatshirt
- 1 jacket or coat
- 1 extra pair long pants
- Warm Cap or Hat (watch cap)
- Gloves

Better to have it and not need it...than need it and not have it!

What not to bring

Scouts should not bring:

- Electronic toys and gadgets - games, iPods, etc. (They can be used in the car traveling to and from camp but must be left in the car)
- Soda pop or snacks - there should be plenty to eat without having to bring snacks. If there is a problem with the menu choice, it is up to the Scout to work that out with his patrol. Food should never be kept in tents.
- Cell phones - these should not be carried or used in camp because they are a distraction. Boys may bring them in the car to and from camp, but they must be left in the car. Adults are requested to leave their phones in their cars or tents.
- Open-toed shoes (flip flops, sandals) except when worn at the waterfront (even then, water shoes are preferred). Closed-toe shoes only while in camp.