

Troop 182

Gear Notes / Preferred Equipment

Day Pack – Any old school backpack. They just need a bag to hold the 10 essential items for hikes.

1. **Pocketknife or multitool.** You need to earn your Totin' Chip before you can use this.
2. **Small first-aid kit** (Band-aids, gauze, tape, Neosporin and mole skin in a Ziploc baggie)
3. **Extra clothing** or jacket
4. **Rain gear** (Large garbage bag works in a pinch). Ponchos are popular with the scouts but don't always keep them dry or warm in heavy storms. Vinyl rain suits start at \$15 at Wal-Mart. Dri-Ducks \$15-\$25. After they slow down growing, high quality, durable, fabric rain suits (Frogg Toggs) can be found for \$30-\$100.
5. **Flashlight or Headlamp** - Start with a cheap flashlight then upgrade when they lose it. With headlamps you get what you pay for. Black Diamond Spot (shown below) \$29 is a good choice. Expect to spend \$20+.
6. **Trail food**
7. **Water bottle** – Nalgene style is a good choice
8. **Matches, lighter or fire starter**
9. **Sun protection** (sunblock, sunglasses, lip balm and/or a wide-brimmed hat)
10. **Compass**



Storage Tote or Bag – Something to hold all their clothes. Totes work great incase it rains and are easy to carry.



Mess Kit (cup, bowl, plate) - Nothing fancy - just needs to be durable / non-breakable. They can use Rubbermaid containers or old dishes and utensils from home. They also need a cup for juice / milk. Water bottles can only be used for water. Light My Fire Meal Kit (green/grey below) \$17.00. GSI Cascadian (blue below) \$12. Classic Scout Aluminum (ok but not recommended) \$12.

Eating utensils (spoon and fork) - Light My Fire Plastic Spork, \$2.00. Titanium version \$12 - should last a lifetime if they don't lose it.



Rope – para cord, braided rope or old clothesline.

Toiletry kit (toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, deodorant, etc.) – Travel size in a ZipLoc baggie —keep this packed all the times.

Camp Towel – old bath or beach towel. Again, just keep it packed all the time.

Thermal Underwear – layer up when it’s cold, especially at night when they sleep (see sleeping bag section below).

Cot – Most scouts only use cots during summer camp. Adults use cots on most campouts.

Chair – Any portable chair to sit around the campfire.

Tent – Don’t buy a new tent until you know what you’re looking for. Cheap tents leak, blow over and cause problems on campouts. Coleman makes some decent tents but check the rainfly and make sure that’s not too short. Eureka and Kelty are recommended.

Ground Pad or Air Mattress – For starters, use a yoga mat or pool raft. Closed cell foam pads are best. They come in different sizes so pay attention. Stansport closed cell (blue below) \$18, Therm-A-Rest Ridge Rest Solar/SOLite (silver below) \$30-\$60, Therm-A-Rest Trail Lite (green below) \$50-\$70. Watch for end-of-the-season sales.



Sleeping Bag – Start with any sleeping bag you already have; then upgrade for cold weather campouts. You’re going to need a good quality bag for cold weather camping and it’s worth spending a little extra money. (See Cold-Weather Camping Tips). November to March will be cold so you should be looking for 20° to -20° bags. Synthetic is cheaper than down, requires less care, and is warmer when wet. **“Mummy” style bags are much warmer** than rectangular. Consider getting a sleeping bag that compacts for backpacking. Suisse Sport 0° Alpine \$50, Kelty Mistral 0° \$95, Eureka ThermaShield Wild Basin 0° \$90. Watch for end-of-the-season sales at www.REI.com, Cabelas and www.SierraTradingPost.com.



Label everything with a Sharpie!