

Troop 17 Personal Equipment List

The following information is intended to be a guide to the new scout and parent regarding camping gear. The descriptions of equipment are intended to be general in nature and highlight properties found beneficial in field use of equipment. The identification of specific products is intended to be indicative of quality and features and is not an endorsement of the specific product.

We suggest that gear be purchased over time to minimize the impact to the family budget. Name brand equipment is not required and there are many suitable alternatives provided they generally conform to the descriptions below.

General Equipment

Tent – Two people will share a tent and smaller, lighter tents are preferred. Aluminum poles are stronger and lighter than fiberglass poles. Look for a bathtub bottom with a full coverage rain fly. Polyester rain flies are lighter and generally more water resistant than nylon. Don't forget to seal the untapped seams on the inside of the tent and fly.

Ground Cloth for Tent – Not only does this protect the bottom of the tent making it last longer, it can help keep you dry. Manufactured ground cloths may be purchased specifically for the tent or ground cloths may be made from heavy weight plastic sheeting or plastic tarpaulin material. Either way, the ground cloth should not extend beyond the outer limit of the tent.

Tent Stakes – Most tents come with stakes but better stakes can be purchased. We recommend a three sided aluminum stake for a combination of strength and weight savings.

Sleeping Bag – A 20 degree sleeping bag with synthetic fill will be sufficient for most of the camping we do. Mummy bags are generally lighter and allow the bag to be closed tightly to keep heat in. Down loses its insulation value when wet and is more expensive than synthetics. Store the sleeping bag un-stuffed so it will retain its loft. Ideally the sleeping bag weighs less than 3 lbs but reduced weight results in increased price.

Foam Pad – A foam pad placed under the sleeping bag for insulation and padding provides more sleeping comfort. Closed cell foam doesn't leak and is lightweight. Air mattresses tend to develop leaks and are generally heavier.

Fleece Sleeping Bag Liner – This is a versatile piece of equipment. It can be used as a sleeping blanket on warm nights or inserted in the sleeping bag for additional insulation on cold nights.

Stuff Sacks - Stuff sacks are infinitely valuable for storing gear. Compression stuff sacks are even better because they allow the load to be compressed into a smaller space.

Lengthwise compression or radial compression is a personal preference. We recommend that stuff sacks be used to store:

- Tents
- Sleeping bags
- Clothing

Rain Jacket – We camp rain or shine so a waterproof breathable rain jacket is required equipment. A jacket protects better than a poncho in wind and keeps body heat in. Better jackets will include “pit zips” allowing the jacket to be ventilated. There are many less expensive options than Gore Tex[®] on the market now such as Conduit[®], MemBrain[®], and Precip[®] to name a few.

Rain Pants – We camp rain or shine so waterproof breathable rain pants are required equipment. Full length side zippers are a great option that make pants easy to get on and off. There are many less expensive options than Gore Tex[®] on the market now such as Conduit[®], MemBrain[®], and Precip[®] to name a few.

Hiking Boots – Sturdy footwear will protect the feet and ankles during many of our activities. Boots need not be expensive but should be designed for hiking and provide comfort and support. Different feet are shaped differently so it is difficult to recommend a “generic” boot but the boots must fit the feet and be broken in.

Closed Toed Shoes – A comfortable pair of shoes to wear around camp can be a nice touch. For water events, everyone must wear shoes and they must be closed toe. Use old tennis shoes, water shoes, or higher end closed toed sandals if you’d like. Open toed sandals are not acceptable.

Clothing – Clothing selection is critical to a comfortable camping experience. We encourage the use of layering of wool or synthetic materials (not cotton) for their breathability and durability. Clothing should be appropriate for the weather and planned activities. Generally, clothing for camping will include:

- Briefs or boxers (to change into)
- Long underwear bottoms
- Shorts
- Long pants (zip off legs work for shorts also)
- Rain shell pants
- Socks with one pair for sleeping
- T-shirt
- Long underwear top
- Long sleeve shirt
- Jacket (insulating)
- Rain shell jacket
- Cap or hat
- Wool hat
- Sunglasses

Pocket Knife – Simpler is generally better. The knife must be a folding blade that will keep an edge. When you buy the knife, buy a whetstone and keep the blade sharp.

Eating utensils – We suggest a cup, plate and bowl made of sturdy plastic such as Lexan[®]. When backpacking, the plate may stay at home. A fork and spoon are also recommended to be made from sturdy plastic. Utensils are sometimes misplaced so expensive tools are not encouraged.

Flashlight – Headlamps are encouraged since they allow use of the hands. Small, lightweight flashlights are also acceptable but remember extra batteries. Lean toward LEDs which last almost forever and are easy on batteries. Halogen and xenon bulbs are power hogs and eat batteries. We recommend lights that use common AA or AAA batteries.

Compass – A small compass with a clear base plate, rotating bezel and a sighting mirror is recommended over smaller, cheaper compasses, for orienteering use.

Water Bottle – Hydration is key to everyone's health so water bottles are required. We recommend wide mouth Nalgene[®] bottles in either Lexan[®] (nearly indestructible) or polyethylene. Features include durability, packability, and a lid that is held to the bottle with a tether. The use of water bottles instead of bladders allows the scouts fluid intake to be better monitored since they have to remove it from their pack to drink. For summer camp, hydration bladders (such as Platypus[®] or CamelBak[®]) work well inside a day pack.

Personal Hygiene Kit – Hygiene is almost as important as hydration to being healthy. The requirements will vary by individual but the personal kit should include:

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Hand Sanitizer
- Glasses
- Contact Lens Case
- Contact Lens Solutions
- Mirror
- Medicines
- Dietary Supplements

Personal First Aid Kit – Each person must have a small first aid kit to address minor injuries. The troop carries a more comprehensive kit. Each personal kit should include:

- Adhesive Strips (Band Aids), 6 minimum
- Moleskin
- Antibiotic ointment
- Adhesive Tape
- Sterile Gauze Pads (3"x3" recommended)
- Tweezers

- Safety pins
- Sewing Kit (the needle is most important)
- Soap (small bar)
- Antiseptic
- Scissors (small)
- Latex or Nitrile Gloves
- Plastic Goggles or Other Eye Protection
- Mouth Barrier Device (for mouth to mouth rescue breathing)
- Personalized Emergency Medications
- Pencil and Paper

Toilet paper – We camp in the woods and we do our business in the woods. Any toilet paper that is readily biodegradable will work.

Trowel – Since we do our business in the woods we do not want the world to see our results so we dig cat holes for our deposits. Small plastic trowels are suitable for almost all of our needs.

Sunscreen – Exposure to the sun has been proven to cause premature aging and skin cancer. We recommend a waterproof sunscreen of at least SPF 30 be worn at all times to prevent sunburn, windburn and blisters.

Lip Balm – Exposure to the sun has been proven to cause premature aging and skin cancer. We recommend a lip balm of at least SPF 15 be worn at all times to prevent sunburn, windburn, blisters and chapped lips.

Towel – Any old towel will do unless we are backpacking and trying to keep the weight down. For backpacking use, small microfiber towels are excellent.

Rope – We recommend that 20-30 feet of ¼” or 3/8” nylon cord be brought on every campout. Rope is a good tool to have.

Duct Tape – Duct tape can be used for a multitude of uses. We recommend that it be stored on your water bottle for easy access.

Duffel Bag – A reasonably sized duffel bag is acceptable for hauling gear to and from most campouts.

Watch – Many of our events are scheduled so a watch is critical to knowing when to be somewhere or do something.

Specialty Gear

Backpack – Although most scouts carry their gear in a backpack on all campouts, a backpack is required for our backpacking campout and Philmont. External frame backpacks are generally less expensive, allow airflow between the pack and your back,

and are designed for hiking on trails. Internal frame backpacks are generally narrower, more expensive, hug your back (although some design are incorporating airflow features), and are designed for more technical pursuits.

Blue Barrel – The blue barrel is an airtight, watertight plastic barrel with a metal band closure available from Troop 17. They are generally used on canoeing and aquatics campouts but may be used on other trips and for pet food, cat litter, oil dry, etc. When issued, the blue barrel must be personalized to identify it from other blue barrels. Troop 17 does not accept returned personalized blue barrels.

Bailer – This piece of equipment is used to bail out a canoe or other boat. It need not be fancy or expensive. A modified milk jug or juice bottle is sufficient. A sponge may also work.

Water Treatment Tablets – These are sometimes used on backpacking and canoeing trips to treat raw water for drinking. Boiling is sometimes used as an alternative.

Hiking Socks – When hiking or backpacking we recommend that a thin synthetic (polypropylene) or silk liner sock be worn under a heavier wool hiking sock. Cotton socks do not transport moisture and will lead to blisters.

Suggested Brands

This list is only a guide. There are numerous options, brands, and versions of each piece of equipment. Using our suggested brands list we encourage you to shop around, do research, use your experience, and the listed features to find the best gear for you.

Tent – Kelty Gunnison, Eureka Apex, REI Half Dome 2, Eureka Timberline

Ground Cloth for tent – Purchase with tent or make from contractor sheeting or plastic tarpaulin material

Tent Stakes – MSR Groundhog, Go-Lite 7” Y-Stake, Sierra Designs Y Peg

Sleeping Bag - Kelty Light Year XP, Marmot EcoPro, Marmot Pounder Plus, REI Zephyr, Slumberjack Ultimate Thermolite Extreme

Foam Pad – Therm-a-rest Ridge Rest, Therm-a-Rest Z-Lite

Fleece Sleeping Bag Liner – Kelty Lightweight Fleece Liner, Cocoon Microfleece Mummy liner

Stuff Sacks – Outdoor Research, Granite Gear, REI

Rain Jacket – Red Ledge Thunderlight, Marmot Precip, Mountain Hardwear Epic

Rain Pants- Red Ledge Thunderlight, Marmot Precip,

Hiking Boots- Hi-Tec, Columbia, Vasque, Merrill, Montrail, Asolo

Closed Toed Shoes – Aqua Socks, Teva Proton, Crocs, Keen Newport

Pocket Knife – Victorinox Tinker, Case Whittler, Case Medium Stockman

Eating utensils – GSI Outdoors Lexan Bowl and Plate, GSI Outdoors Lexan Utensils

Flashlight – Petzl Tikka, Petzl Zipka, Mini Maglite LED 2-AA LED

Compass – Silva Trekker Type 20, Silva Ranger Type 515CL, Brunton Classic 8040G

Water Bottle – Nalgene Lexan Wide Mouth 32 oz Bottle

Towel (Microfiber) – MSR Packtowel, REI MultiTowel Lite

Specialty Gear

Backpack – Kelty Trekker, JanSport Carson

Water Treatment Tablets – Katadyn MicroPur, Potable Aqua

Hiking Liner Socks – Fox River X-Static, REI Silk One, REI Dry One PolyPro

Hiking Wool Socks – Smartwool Light Hiker, Teko EcoMerino Wool

Suggested Retailers

This list is only a guide. These retailers are considered reputable based on purchases made by scouts and leaders of Troop 17. There are numerous retailers: local, catalog, and internet. Using our suggested brands list we encourage you to shop around, do research, use your experience, and the listed features to find the best gear at the best price for you.

Backwoods¹
2725 W 7th Street
Fort Worth, TX 76107
817.332.2423
<http://www.backwoods.com>

Mountain Sports
2025 W. Pioneer Parkway
Arlington, TX 76013
817.461.4503
<http://www.mountainsports.com>

REI
4515 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, TX 75244
972.490.5989
<http://www.rei.com>
<http://www.rei-outlet.com>

Cabelas
12901 Cabela Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76177
817.337.2400
<http://www.cabelas.com>

Bass Pro Shops
2501 Bass Pro Drive
Grapevine, TX 76051
972.724.2018
<http://www.basspro.com>

Whole Earth Provision Company
5400 East Mockingbird Lane
Dallas, TX 75206
214.824.7444
<http://www.wholeearthprovision.com>

Campsaver
1.877.883.6276
<http://www.campsaver.com>

Campmor
1.888.CAMPMOR
<http://www.campmor.com>

Sierra Trading Post
1.800.713.4534
<http://www.sierratradingpost.com>

Mountain Gear
1.800.829.2009
<http://www.mountaingear.com>

¹ Backwoods gives a 15% discount to registered scouts who present their registration card on gear included on the Philmont Gear List.

CAUTION:

Gear purchased at stores such as Walmart, Target, Academy, and Sports Authority may appear to be similar to that sold elsewhere. However, we have found that some of this gear lacks some of the durability and functionality found in gear sold from outdoor specialty retailers. This is not to say that quality gear cannot be purchased from these vendors but that one must be cautious.