

## Boy Scout Camping Gear Recommended For Weekend Camping with Troop 200

**Troop Provisions:** The troop provides all of the cooking equipment needed by the scouts/patrols for each campout including: stoves, propane, pots/pans, Dutch ovens, and cooking utensils. The troop also provides saws, rakes, and shovels as needed. Each patrol (including 1<sup>st</sup> year patrols) pool their money and shop for their food before every camp-out. The balance of the equipment is what we call “personal equipment” and needs to be provided by each scout for themselves.

### Recommended Camping Equipment List:

Tent 1-3 person w/ full rain fly
Tent footprint or ground tarp (cut to fit tent bottom)
Personal Tarp
Foam Sleeping Pad
Sleeping Bag
Sleeping Bag Liner or Fleece blanket (as needed for cooler weather)
Sheet (as needed for warmer weather)
Pillow (optional)
Personal Clothing (pack at least one complete change, appropriate for the weather)
Rain Gear - Poncho, rain jacket, or optional full rain suit
Appropriate footwear (waterproof if possible) - pack an extra pair
Hat (toboggan for cold nights)
Personal Camping Gear:
Toiletries
First Aid Kit
Boy Scout Handbook
Flashlight OR Head Lamp w/ extra batteries
Small diameter Rope or Paracord - 50 ft.
Pocketknife (if he has one)
Waterproof bag (optional use trash bag)
2 Trash bags (to be packed and used as needed)
Canteen or water bottle
Stuff sacks (optional)
<a href="#">Personal Mess Kit</a> (REQUIRED)
<a href="#">Mess Kit dunk bag</a> (REQUIRED)
Individual Medications (Check in with leader at sign-in)

**Notes:** Please write the scout's name on EVERYTHING. We make every attempt to return lost items, but many items look alike. It is much easier to reconnect an owner with a lost item if we have a name to work with.

### **What to pack all the items and equipment into for travel to and from campsites:**

- Duffel Bag
- Backpack (NOT book backpack for school)
- Suit Case
- [Mess kit](#) and [kit dunk bag](#)
- Make sure that what you choose for your son to use is durable. It will be loaded into one of the Troop trailers with other gear on top of it and it will also be exposed to the outdoors during trips.

Packs or bags designed for camping or hiking already have some type of water resistant capabilities. However, if the container you choose to use is not water proof or if wet weather is expected placing items in trash bag or zip lock bags then placing them into the container (water proof or not) is a good idea.

Definition for terms used in the following material:

- *Packable*: as one would pack all personal gear in a backpack for hiking and carry by oneself
- *Environment*: a set of external conditions as in terrain, climate, camps site improved or unimproved, affecting a particular activity

### **Shelter**

- Tent [Required]
  - One or Two man for year round camping (three season tent)
  - Packable
  - Stuff Sack
  - Full Rain Fly or Vestibule area is a big plus for gear and dry area for wet gear in the rain
  - Ground tarp or a "footprint" for tent to be set up on separating tent floor from ground.
  - Please get your son a quality tent. This will last him for many years and a cheap tent is a cheap tent that will cause your son problems. A tent with metal poles is preferred to a tent with fiberglass poles due to the fact that fiberglass poles tend to break much easier especially in cold weather.
  - No cabin or family style of tents. These tents are too big and many of the places that we camp do not have enough room for these big tents to be used with the numbers of Scouts that we take camping.
  - When you purchase a tent for your son, please make sure that he knows how to put it up and that he can put it up himself. The adults will help if needed but each Scout should know how to set up his own tent not only in day light conditions but at night with a light as well. Please have him practice at home before he takes it out for the first time.

**Notes:** A ground tarp or tent footprint keeps moisture from the ground from leaching up into the tent and making everything damp and clammy. A footprint made for the tent is ideal as it will fit the bottom of the tent exactly. A ground tarp should be cut to fit so that no part of the tarp extends outside the bottom of the tent.

- Personal Tarp [Recommended]
  - 10' x 10' is a good size to use
  - Packable
  - To be used as a temporary shelter from rain for outdoor activities (cooking, etc.).

**Notes:** Tarps range in prices. The cheaper tarps (blue plastic tarps) work fine for protection against the weather, but are sometimes more difficult to pack. A more expensive option, like the Kelty Noah's Tarp, is designed for camping, and can be used in a variety of situations including as an emergency tent or cover for a hammock. (<http://www.rei.com/product/808940/kelty-noahs-tarp-12-x-12>)

## Bedding

- Sleeping Mat [Required]
  - Packable (some roll up, some fold) closed cell foam recommended.
  - Inflatable type with foam enclosed adds another barrier against environment and temperatures (example: Thermarest) but are more expensive.
  - No air mattresses such as inflatable rafts. In cold weather the ground will cool the air inside, drawing heat away from the person.
  - Added comfort for sleeping

**Notes:** The sleeping mat insulates the scout from the ground temperature (cold), and provides a little extra padding. In winter months, this is particularly important as the ground can sap the heat from the scout's sleeping bag if a mat is not used.

- Sleeping bag [Required]
  - Stuff or compression type
  - Recommended Rating for temperatures down to 30 degrees
  - Fleece Sleeping bag liner for inserting into sleeping bag during colder temperatures
  - Optional: Fleece blanket can be used in place of sleeping bag liner
  - Sheet which can be used in warmer weather sleeping on top or in open sleeping bag

**Notes:** Camping sleeping bags generally come in two types – down and synthetic. This refers to what is used to fill the sleeping bag to keep you warm. Down is lighter and warmer which is great if you are backpacking, which we aren't. The downside to down is that if it gets wet, it loses all of its ability to keep you warm. Synthetic sleeping bags are a little heavier but they retain their heat when they get wet.

Sleeping bags also come in three different styles – mummy bags, rectangular bags and hybrid bags. Mummy bags are small at your feet, flair up around your shoulders, and have a draw string which will enable you to close up the bag around your head till basically the only thing showing is your nose. It's very warm but it can be restricting. A rectangular sleeping bag is simply a long rectangle. It's less binding but it's also not quite as warm. You will occasionally see a hybrid sleeping bag. These bags tend to be rectangular sleeping bags that also have a drawstring that will come up around your head like a mummy bag.

If you have the financial resources available, it is ideal to have 2 sleeping bags: One to use in winter (30 degree or lower bag), and another to use in warmer months (50 degree bag).

- Pillow [Optional]
  - Packable and/or inflatable type (if it is a must have item for comfort)
  - Optional: Scouts can use extra clothes or coat stuffed into a stuff sack as a pillow.

### Personal Clothing [Required]

- Wear to the campout:
  - Troop 200 class B uniform (Red t-shirt or hoodie)
  - Appropriate layers over and under the class B uniform (long underwear, coat)
  - Troop 200 hat
  - Toboggan (appropriate for environment)
  - Coat/Jacket (appropriate for environment)
  - Rain Jacket or Poncho (appropriate for environment)
  - Pants (short or long, appropriate for the environment)
  - Socks
  - Shoes or boots (water proof or resistant). Hiker-style footwear is a good choice for campouts
- Pack for the campout:
  - Always pack at least 1 full change of clothes for every campout:
    - Shirt (Class B preferred)
    - Troop 200 hoodie (if not already wearing it)
    - Long Pants (at least 1 pair of long pants due to variations in the weather)
    - Shorts (as appropriate for the weather)
    - Socks - 3 extra pairs (Scouts advised to change socks before bed and in the morning)
    - Extra pair of shoes
  - Coat/Jacket (if not already wearing it)
  - Rain Jacket or Poncho (if not already wearing it)
    - Optional: full rain suit (jacket and pants) provides the best protection from rain
  - Sunglasses (optional)
  - Toboggan (if not already wearing – a must for sleeping in cold weather!)
  - [Mess Kit](#) and [Mess kit dunk bag](#)

**Notes:** Remember that your scout will be living outside for the duration of the camping trip – usually over the weekend. Keeping warm and dry is a must, so appropriate clothing is very important. Check the weather forecast before all camping trips. ALWAYS pack assuming it will rain (which may happen even if not in the forecast).

Pack the things the scout will need to access *first* on top of your bag. A flashlight and poncho should always be within easy reach because it may be dark and raining when we arrive at camp.

## Personal Camping Gear:

- Toiletries: Personal Hygiene Items
  - Tooth Brush
  - Tooth Paste (travel size)
  - Deodorant (travel size)
  - Soap (bar or liquid travel size as needed)
  - Hand Sanitizer (travel size) – clip on containers are great
  - Flushable Moist Wipes (small pack non-scented)
  - Towel (small) – note: there are typically no shower facilities at campsites
  - Sunscreen Lotion \*seasonal\*
  - Chap stick or lip balm (optional)
  - Bug Repellent \*seasonal\*
  - Half-roll of toilet paper (in a plastic baggie)
  
- First Aid Kit-Personal

**Notes:** One of the requirements for 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Rank is to prepare a personal first aid kit. Recommended items to include in a personal first aid kit can be found in the Boy Scout handbook. A basic kit should be fine for Scouts. The Troop has a larger, more extensive medical kit available at all campouts.

- Band Aids (Various Sizes)
  - Gauze Pads
  - Compression Bandage
  - Moleskin
  - Antiseptic Wipes
  - Antibiotic ointment
  - Hydrocortisone Cream (bug bites, rash, skin irritations)
  - Space or Thermal Emergency Blanket
- 
- Boy Scout Handbook
    - Scouts should bring to every troop meeting and every campout
  - Flashlight or Head Lamp (extra batteries and bulb for light)
    - Pack on top so it's easy to find
  - Rope ¼" or 3/8" diameter or Paracord, 25 to 50 foot length
    - Good for tying tarps or emergency tent repairs
  - Pocket Knife
    - Folding type w/ lock blade feature recommended
    - Note: The troop prohibits all fixed-blade knives, so do not bring one!
    - Note: Knives are frequently lost so it's not a good idea to bring a knife that is a family heirloom or has a lot of sentimental value
  - Waterproof bag
    - Use to pack personal gear (stay dry)
    - Optional: Use thick trash bags as a waterproof barrier to protect personal gear from rain
  - 2 Trash bags
    - Useful for packing dirty clothes or wet gear

- Canteen or water bottle
  - A strap helps make the water bottle more portable for short hikes, activities, etc.
  - Backpack-style (Camelbak) hydration packs are great but a little more expensive.
- Stuff sacks (Optional)
  - Good for packing extra clothes and personal items
  - Use to separate items, clothes, shoes, gear
  - Can also be used as a pillow when stuffed with extra coat or clothes
- Individual Meds
  - Upon arriving at the designated drop-off location for campouts, please check-in any medications the scout will need to take during the campout. One adult leader will be in charge of collecting the meds at check-in, and administering the meds to the scouts during the campout.
  - Please include the following information:
    - Scout's name
    - Name of medication
    - Dosage to be administered
    - Time(s) to be administered
    - A description of the medication (in case a container accidentally opens)
    - Any warnings, side effects, or concerns the adult leaders should be aware of in relation to the medication (including what to look out for if the scout does not receive his meds).

#### Additional Items [Optional]

- Small camp chair
  - Inexpensive, packable
  - Nice for staying out of the dirt while relaxing around the camp fire
- Individual mess kit
  - Not required (troop/patrol provides plates, cups, utensils)
  - Nice in case something is forgotten or due to scout preference
- Compass
  - Not required, but good item for scouts to have
  - Scouts learn compass use and navigation in the first year program
- Backpack
  - A backpack is not required due to the type of camping the troop does (campsites are typically very close to vehicles)
  - A great gift idea for a scout who already has all the essential gear and looking to expand hiking/camping capabilities
  - Get one fitted for the scout and designed for the purpose intended (i.e. no book backpacks as one would use at school).
- Hammock
  - Hammocks are a personal choice but only recommended for use in spring and summer camping.

**Notes:** I would like to offer these points on hammocks: Your body has a full 360 degree exposure to the elements and temperatures in a hammock, no area to place/store gear. Note a tent can be set up without the use of trees and in an open area. *If they decide to use a hammock for sleeping, scouts should also pack a tent as a backup in case of inclement weather.*

If you purchase a hammock, you should also consider “slap straps” (<http://goo.gl/cxwSj>). These straps make it MUCH easier to string a tent between two trees as well as being a bit nicer to the tree. Also, when using a hammock, purchase either a rain tarp specifically for the hammock or bring rope and a regular tarp to hang over the hammock. Sleeping in the rain is less than fun. Lastly, in this state, you may want to consider a mosquito bug screen for your hammock. It slips over the hammock like a sock over your foot. I know what you are thinking – by the time you buy a hammock, a rain fly, slap straps, and mosquito netting you have spent as much money as you would on a tent. Well, take comfort in the knowledge that you are right!

### **What NOT to bring camping with Troop 200:**

- A “fixed blade” knife
- Any kind of propane or butane lighters
- An axe or hatchet
- A propane or gas lantern or equipment
- Any kind of fire accelerant
- Fireworks or firearms
- Electronics (see troop [Electronics Use Policy](#))