

## **Introduction to Outdoor Equipment for New Scouts and Parents**

The introductory information on this page is provided again for your review.

As with everything else, camping is more fun when you are prepared and have the right equipment. However, that does not mean that you have to go to REI and EMS to have them outfit you with all the best gear. Here are some guidelines and suggestions:

- Eventually scouts should have a full complement of equipment. For their first trip or two we want to make sure they are at least warm and dry. With a little experience, they will have a better idea what they need.
- The two places not to cut corners are on hiking boots and a sleeping bag. Unfortunately the boys are growing so fast that they will likely outgrow boots before they wear them out.
- Make sure boots are waterproofed and worn several times before they are worn on a hike.
- Official Boy Scout gear from the store is not necessary. See attached supply sites and watch for sales on-line.
- Backpacks are particularly difficult because the boys are growing. See attached discussion.
- Your son will not need a tent. The Troop owns tents.
- Avoid cotton, particularly in the winter. Historically wool has been the material of choice but it has largely been supplanted by fleece and polypropylene.
- Layers of clothing are better than one big, heavy jacket.
- Camping gear makes a great gift for birthdays and holidays.
- If you have any questions, please ask.

## **Personal Overnight Camping Gear -**

**The Boy Scout Handbook (page 224) is an excellent source for a list of camping equipment.** The list below largely comes from the handbook. On the attached pages you will also find some additional comments and advice on winter camping prepared by Trina Waters as well as some recommendations for places to purchase equipment. Pack extra clothes in plastic bags. Ziplocks keep the moisture out, and can be vacuum packed.

### **Minimum Requirements:**

Scout Handbook  
Pocketknife (*sheath knives are not allowed*)  
Personal first aid kit (*see first aid requirements page 289*)  
Rain gear (*poncho is easy to pack and very useful*)  
2 pairs extra poly/wool socks (*poly sock liners are great for warmth and to prevent blisters*)  
Hiking boots (*waterproofed and broken in*)  
Extra clothing appropriate for the weather (*see below*)  
Water bottle – 1 liter  
Flashlight with fresh batteries and extra batteries  
Matches in a waterproof container  
Compass with a base plate and orienting arrow  
Backpack (*see suggestions below*)  
Rain cover for backpack (*plastic trash bag works*)  
Sleeping bag appropriate for the temperature and rolled in a waterproof bag (*Put a kitchen size trash bag in the stuff sack before stuffing in the sleeping bag.*)  
Sleeping pad – Foam or Therm-A-Rest  
Eating utensils (*I would not recommend a mess kit but rather suggest a heavier weight, Lexan-type plastic bowl, plate spoon and fork and a plastic insulated cup*)  
Personal care items