



BOY SCOUT TROOP 53

BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

Lewis & Clark Council, BSA

<http://troop53.net>

Camping Equipment

Although equipment and clothing lists can be found in the *Boy Scout Handbook*, the list below combines those lists into one, hopefully more convenient, checklist. The "official" lists can be found as follows:

- Clothing — pages 272–273
- Personal equipment — pages 264, and 292–293

The handbook also delves into how to choose clothing and other camping items on the pages following the ones listed above.

Initially, a Scout only needs some very basic gear, most of which he, or his family, may already have. Note the "groups" in the list below. As long as a Scout has something to wear (appropriate to the season), something in which to sleep (ditto), something with which to eat, and a few other items, (flashlight, etc.), he will be fine. Please do *not* go out and spend hundreds/thousands of dollars on new camping equipment!! (Believe me, I know how easy it is to do this..... [as he checks wallet and credit card balances and considers joining a 12–step program for outdoor equipment addicts/junkies])

Personal Camping Equipment List

<p>Clothing:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 changes underwear</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> at least 2 changes socks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> uniform</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> extra clothing (appropriate to season)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> jacket</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> hat</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> rain gear</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> extra shoes</p> <p>Sleeping (these items should be in a waterproof container/bag¹):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> warm sleeping bag, or lightweight bag with extra blankets</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sleeping pad, or extra blankets for underneath sleeping bag</p>	<p>Eating:²</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> deep bowl and/or plate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> cup</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> knife, fork, and spoon</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> water bottle or canteen</p> <p>Personal and Miscellaneous:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SMALL flashlight³</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> compass⁴</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SMALL pocket knife⁵</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> money (\$5.00 or so)⁶</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> soap</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> toothbrush/toothpaste</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> small towel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> bandaids</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> note pad and pen or pencil</p>
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NO RADIOS, CD/MP3 PLAYERS OR ELECTRONIC GAMES

If a Scout brings a cellphone it must be turned off from the time we arrive at the event location until we leave to go home.

¹ Troop 53 has a large number of surplus milspec. waterproof bags available for free — see Quartermaster or Scoutmaster.

² Cheap alternatives —

Bowl: "Cool–Whip"–type container or margarine tub
Cup: plastic convenience–store drink cup

Plate: Frisbee
Water bottle/canteen: 1 or 2 liter soda bottle

Please do not use disposable, paper or plastic plates, cups, utensils, etc. Scouts are supposed to be environmentally conscious, and reduce their impact on the planet. Use of these items is not in keeping with this.

³ You do **not** need the "Binford Night-Blaster 5000[®]" flashlight! The AA-powered "Mini-Mag" style flashlight is the only one a Scout will ever need for camping. They are almost indestructible, have a spare bulb already, are waterproof to any depth that most mortals achieve, are pocketable (in fact, it should be in a pocket when we leave for a campout so that it is immediately available when we arrive at the campsite), and are more than bright enough for normal camping. And they are relatively inexpensive at around \$8-10.

LED flashlights have dropped in price dramatically in the last couple of years. They offer certain advantages, among which is battery life and bulb strength. There is an LED version of the Mini-Mag, but it is almost triple the cost of the regular one. Cheaper ones, both in price and quality, are out there though.

Headlamps are another alternative. Available in incandescent and LED, they free up your hands for setting up a tent on Friday night. Can be cheap or expensive depending on what you want and the brand name.

⁴ Not necessary for the first campout or 2. *Please* do not buy the \$2.00, round, "NSEW"-only compasses. They are worthless for Scouts! Although I don't usually recommend buying "Official" Scout equipment, the basic "Silva 1-2-3" -style compass available in the Scout catalogue and Scout Shop for about \$10.00 is perfect. Similar compasses are available at WalMart, probably for less.

⁵ Scouts are reminded that they must earn "Totin' Chip" before they may carry or use a knife, hatchet/axe, or saw. To answer the question before it is asked — "Whittlin' Chip" from Webelos does **NOT** count. Non-folding knives are prohibited on all Scouting events. If a knife doesn't fit comfortably in your pants pocket, it's too big.

⁶ We sometimes stop for a snack or drink on our way to and/or from a campout.

Other notes:

- Tents, cooking equipment, stoves, lanterns, etc. will be provided. Please do **not** bring your own stove, lantern, or other fuel-burning device. Although we haven't used it in several years because of this rule, most of the times that we have used a fire extinguisher it has been on personal items such as these. And every time we use it, it costs the Troop \$15.00+ to have our fire extinguisher recharged.
- Scouts will need something in which to put all of their personal gear. A large duffel/gym-style bag works well. An extra waterproof bag (see above) also works. Eventually (after a year or so) you may want to buy a backpack.
- A nylon windbreaker is **NOT** "rain gear"! The very least piece of rain gear needed is a waterproof poncho. Rain-suits are better. Both of these items can be found in WalMart for less than \$20. Initially, though, a plastic 30-gallon garbage bag, with strategically placed cuts, can be a poncho. Rain and mud are also the reason behind having the extra pair of shoes.
- You will notice that a pillow is not listed under "sleeping gear". Here is Kevin's Camping Pillow Recipe:
Ingredients:

1. t-shirt, 1 ea.

2. extra clothing, soft

Place item 2 into item 1, say "abra-cadabra", and you have a pillow.

And finally:

Each camping participant is solely responsible for any and all personal item(s) s/he brings on a camping or other outdoor event. Troop 53, its leaders, and chartering organization(s) are not liable, and cannot be held liable, for lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed personal items. We sometimes camp in very public places, and a tent is not Ft. Knox. Items (especially valuable ones) laying in the open, or even in a closed tent are not guaranteed to be where you left them, or in the condition you left them, when you return. Troop 53 camps in any weather, and rain, snow, hail, and wind can damage or destroy, or cause to be lost, personal clothing and equipment. Troop equipment is **not** guaranteed to protect your personal items under all conditions.

Bottom line: If you are not willing to have it lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed, don't bring it.