

Camping Checklist



Gear Helper



Document Purpose

- Shopping for camping gear and making purchase decisions can be understandably overwhelming for first-time camping families. We have created this document to assist our Pack families with those decisions. Our rationale and guidance come from two core areas: prior Pack camping experience and BSA guidance from BALOO training (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation).
- Specific items and retail locations mentioned within are only references. National big box retailers, Internet stores, sporting goods stores, as well as local Scout Shops in the local area are all able to service your needs. Our Pack does not have any relationships with any particular retailers and the photos used within were taken based on a volunteer's time to gather information without traveling extensively throughout the town.
- Another avenue for first time campers could be to borrow gear from other sources such as neighbors, family members, clubs, churches, etc.
- Consider all things equally when purchasing your camping gear, to include storage capacity at home, quality of product, frequency of use, and budget. If maintained correctly, most camping gear will provide years of enjoyment.
- If anyone has questions, please reach out to your Den Leader or Cub Master

Cub Scout Camping Checklist



This is a basic checklist for Cub Scout family camping trips. Scouts and their families are responsible for essential personal items, clothing, and shelter. Kitchen supplies and food prep tools are brought by the Pack.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tent (recommend 4-person or larger) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Small towel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tent footprint/ground pad | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prescription medications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sleeping bag (or blankets) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Small personal first-aid kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sleeping pad or air mattress | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sunscreen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Camping pillow | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sunglasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | "Class A" Scout uniform | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | "Class B" t-shirt | <input type="checkbox"/> | Insect repellent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Scout Handbook | <input type="checkbox"/> | Brush/comb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Notebook and pen/pencil | <input type="checkbox"/> | Water bottle or canteen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Flashlight or headlamp | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Camp chairs | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Weather-appropriate clothing | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Boots or shoes suited to terrain | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sleepwear | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Rain gear (jacket or poncho) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Toothbrush and toothpaste | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Toiletry kit | | |
- Other rules for camp:**
NO alcoholic beverages!
NO fireworks, firearms, archery equipment, etc!
NO pets!
NO pressurized fuel equipment unless you have
BSA Pressurized Fuel Training!

Dome Tents

- Campers in cool or cold weather need tight, strong tents able to withstand strong winds and hold heat inside. Your tent keeps you sheltered from rain, wind, sun, and bugs—all of which is very important!
- **Dome Tent.** This is the most common type. Contemporary designs and fabric have made possible a variety of dome-shaped tents. Their configurations help them stand up in the wind and rain. Dome tents offer lots of useable floor space and headroom. They are usually freestanding, so they can easily be moved before taking down. Freestanding tents are convenient to set up, but still need to be staked down so they don't become free flying in unexpected winds. Be sure to use the fly (cover) to prevent moisture from rain or dew from reaching your gear inside



Reference Example

Coleman Skydome Version

Used by several Pack families

- 4-person Blue
 - ~\$90 at Amazon
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Coleman-4-Person-Camping-Sundome-Setup/dp/B019N9W7WC?th=1&psc=1>
 - Also available at Sports Shops, Big Box Retailers, Scout Shops, and others
- 6-person Palm Green
 - ~\$110 at Amazon
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Coleman-4-Person-Camping-Sundome-Setup/dp/B004J2GUP4?th=1&psc=1>
 - Also available at Sports Shops, Big Box Retailers, Scout Shops, and others

Cabin Tents

- Cabin tents offer the same features as do dome tent with one considerable difference: size.
- Cabin style tents allow for more occupants and larger sleeping arrangements (e.g., cots). Some also come with additional features such as screened porches
- Examples to the right are from Academy Sports, ranging from \$140 to \$160
 - <https://www.academy.com/c/outdoors/camping--outdoors/tents--screen-houses/cabin-tents?&orderBy=topRated>

REMINDER: For Family Campouts, your family will tent together.

- 10-person Example



- 8-person Example



Other Tent Matters to Consider

- Regardless of your tent choice, bring your tent manuals along with you when camping and feel free to ask for assistance in setting-up and taking-down your tent. Many hands make light work.
- Practice setting up and taking down your tent in your living room or backyard before you have to do it in the rain or by flashlight. Read the instructions! Seal the seams on your new tent right after you get it if directed by the manufacturer. Pitch it tautly, then go over the fly and floor seams with waterproof seam sealer. New tents usually include seam sealer and the manufacturer's instructions for applying it.
- Air out your tent after you get back from a campout. Brush out any dirt or pine needles that have collected. After airing, store the tent loosely in a cool, dry place. Opening zippers completely before going through doors will prevent damage.

Other Tent Items to Consider

- Whisk Broom
 - To keep the tent clean
- Rubber Mallet or Hammer
 - To drive tent stakes
- Coleman sells a Tent Kit
- A hanging tent fan/light combo might come in handy. Remember to pack extra batteries.



REMINDER: Heaters in tents are prohibited per BSA policy. Space heaters are not permitted.

Ground Cloth

- These are commercially available, or an old shower curtain, a waterbed liner, or 4- to 6-mil plastic will work.
- This will be your moisture barrier from the ground, and is essential.
- The ideal size would as close possible to the size of your tent floor.
- When pitching a tent, it is best to tuck-in exposed ground cloth under the tent. Doing so will reduce the chance of rainwater running under your tent.
- Commercial Choices
 - Tarp from big-box retailer
 - Tent footprint (lighter, same thickness)



Sleeping Bag – Info from BALOO Guide

This and the next page are from the BALOO guide as reference material to assist with purchases if needed.

- The sleeping bag is designed to eliminate drafts. You will sleep warmer in a bag than you will with blankets of equivalent weight. Sleeping bags come rated for temperature, and in a variety of shapes, sizes, and construction. A mummy bag is warmer than a rectangular bag due to less heat loss around your feet and shoulders. Most mummy bags also come with hoods, as up to 70 percent of your body heat is lost through the top of your head. While warmer, mummy bags take some getting used to. For example, it's a little harder to roll over in a mummy bag—you'll have to roll the whole bag!
- The outside fabric, or shell, of the bag is often made of nylon. Loft (space to hold heat) is created by filling the shell with a variety of natural or synthetic materials. Partitions sewn into the shell hold the filler material in place. In less expensive bags, the partition seams may go straight through the shell, which makes it easy for cold air to creep in. In better bags, mesh or nylon walls (or baffles) divide the shell into compartments that keep the fill evenly distributed without lessening the loft, thus preventing cold spots. The best bags also have tubes of fill material backing the zippers to keep warm air in, and will probably have insulated hoods that can be drawn tight around the sleeper's face.

More Sleeping Bag – More Info from BALOO

- Bags come temperature rated for 45 to –10 F and beyond. It is possible to add range to a less expensive bag by adding a cotton sheet (–5 F) or a flannel sheet (–10 F), or by sleeping in sweats (–10 to –15 F). A tarp or extra blanket added around the bag will make it even warmer. Matching the range of the bag you buy to the temperature you expect to use it in the most is very important. It is also important to change into clean, dry clothing before getting into your sleeping bag. Moisture on your body from a busy day will quickly cool you and your sleeping bag down, which may make it very difficult to sleep comfortably. A stocking cap is a must, unless your bag has a hood already. Small bodies in long bags will be warmer if the bottom of the bag is folded up and tucked under.
- If you don't have a bag, you can make an envelope bed using two blankets and a ground cloth. Lay the first blanket on top of the ground cloth. Put the second blanket half on and half off the first. Fold the first blanket into the second, then fold the remaining half of the second on top of the first. You should have four interlocked layers—two for the top, two for below. Fold the bottom of the blankets up to size, and secure with large clips or blanket pins.

Still More Sleeping Bag

- In Mooresville, sleeping bags are readily available from retailers such as Academy or Walmart, among others. Some were as inexpensive as \$10.00 for 45-degree weather.
- If purchasing from Amazon or online, consider ordering in time to verify the sleeping bag “smell test”. Some bags retain the odor of shipping vessels, which can be challenging to remove and make for a tough night of camping.

- Academy



- Walmart



Sleeping Bag Pads and Mattresses

- Sleeping pads and mattresses provide an additional layer of cushion between your sleeping bag and the ground.
- There are several choices for family camping that all really come down to what you specifically need for a good night's rest, which include:
 - Egg crate style foam pad
 - Inflatable pad
 - Air mattress – single or multi-person
 - Elevated cots
- If choosing an air mattress, consider a pump to assist with inflating and deflating the mattress. Remember to pack the pump batteries.

Camping Pillows

- Any pillow from home will suffice.
- The benefits of a camping pillow are that it can be used only for camping and not need cleaning before it is returned to your bed at home. The other benefits of a camping pillow are their compact size and ability to be rolled for storage.



Other Sleeping Gear

- Consider packing toboggan-style sleeping hats or sleeping caps to help keep you and yours stay warm through the night. Heat escapes the body through our heads at night.
- For young ones who may be graduating through sleep training, please remember to pack any mattress pads or other overnight items to help everyone stay dry in their sleeping bag.
- Also for the young ones and first time Scout campers, please remember to pack blankies/stuffies/lovies or other nighttime helpers (e.g., battery night light). The first night camping in a tent can be both exciting and intimidating for younger Scouts (and parents/guardians), so please bring what is needed for your family.

Gear Hauling

- To save footsteps, and your back, consider using a collapsible wagon to transport your gear and personal items from your vehicle to the camping site.
- The wagons may also come in handy for trips to the beach, pool, or family outings.
- These are available at sporting goods stores and big box retailers.
- To the right are a few examples.

- Academy



- Walmart



Camp Chairs

- Ample inventory at most sporting goods retailers and big boxes.
- Consider a foldable chair.
- Rocking-style chairs are very comfortable, but do consider their portability and functionality in unknown locations (gravel, dusty areas).
- Built-in footrests are nice, but do be cautious of them at night (campfire) as trip hazards.

