

## *Troop 521 Campout Packing List*

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Note: This list is primarily intended for what we call “base camping.” When the troop goes base camping, vehicles typically transport the gear to within 200 yards of the campsite. The troop carries its own cooking gear in addition to that carried by the individual Scouts. Pack weight is much less of a consideration for base camping. However, Scouts should not exceed a pack weight equal to 20% of their body weight for base camping. When the troop goes backpacking, we carry the lightest packs we can. For long distances, Scouts should not carry packs that exceed 15% of their body weight. Typically this means carrying only a tent, food, personal first aid kit, water, minimal personal gear, and one set of dry clothes.

Please do not bring snacks to camp. The troop will provide adequate meals. Food, especially greasy or salty food (potato chips and salted nuts are notorious) will attract animals and can result in animal attacks and bites. Under no circumstances should food be stored in packs or tents as animals will chew or claw their way to it if they can smell it. The troop keeps its food in vermin proof containers. For the sake of everyone’s safety, leave the snacks at home. Safe foods to bring are dehydrated backpacking meals (for backpacking trips and extended hikes only), energy bars, power gels (be careful about caffeine in these), trail mix or gorp, jerky, and granola bars. All should be kept in tightly sealed containers and stored outside the tent.

Do not bring disposable styrofoam or paper dishes to camp. Lightweight disposable knives, forks, and spoons often break easily leaving a scout with no way to eat. Camping utensils are available at most discount stores and outfitters. We do NOT recommend metal cups, plates, or bowls as they transmit the heat directly to the boys’ hands and often get dropped as a result.

Unless asked to do so, please do not bring personal stoves, liquid or gas lanterns, Dutch ovens, or other similar equipment. BSA has strict safety regulations for camping equipment and the troop is required to meet them at all times. An exception to this is trips where individuals will be responsible for “backpacker meals.” These will be fixed over small personal stoves. Liquid fuel stoves and lanterns may be used only by adults. At no time are Scouts permitted to use liquid fuels or fire accelerants (charcoal starter, for example).

Scouts should have their names on their personal gear and should be respectful at all times of the gear of other scouts. Remember that camping, and particularly backpacking, equipment is expensive and many of the boys have to earn their gear or pay for it personally. Scouts who damage the gear of others should be prepared to replace it or pay to have it replaced.

Here’s a list of the gear that Scouts and adults should have for most troop camping activities.

**Mess gear** (knife, fork, spoon, plate, bowl, cup) All parts must be washable and reusable.

**Canteen** (with either a strap or belt loop). A 1 liter water bottle from the grocery store refilled at home does just fine. It can be put inside a day pack or hung with a piece of rope from a belt. “Camelbacks” and other hydration systems are fine as long as the Scout can carry it comfortably.

**Hand soap** in a plastic bag (a small used bar of soap works very well). Most backpackers save small bars of almost used up soap as it is plenty for a couple of days and cuts down on weight.

**Towel** (small or medium size). A hand towel is typically plenty for 2 days. A larger towel will be handy for longer trips and where shower facilities are available.

**Personal grooming items.** (Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Comb, Deodorant)

**Sun block** (March through October)

**Insect Repellant** (March through November)

**Uniforms.** Troop 521 doesn't typically wear uniforms on camping trips with the exception of summer camp and camporees. Scouts will be told whether or not they need their uniforms prior to a trip.

**Handkerchief.** Do not bring paper tissues as they have to be carried out to the nearest trash site!

**Socks** (suitable for hiking). Bring 2 pairs minimum. Always carry a dry pair with you when hiking.

**Underwear.** Always have a dry pair of underwear in your pack.

**Sneakers and hiking boots or sturdy shoes,** should be waterproofed before camp.

**Hat**

**Dark Glasses** (optional but recommended)

**Sleep gear** (pajamas or sleep shorts). Sleeping in underwear that is wet with sweat from a long hard day is the best way in the world to earn a killer rash.

**Poncho or other rain gear** (We discourage disposable ponchos and trash bags particularly when temperatures are below 60°.)

**Sleeping Bag** (optional in hot and mild weather, see note)

**Foam pad** (optional but recommended in cold and severe cold weather, see note)

**Other Gear:**

Compass

Personal first aid kit (This should be the one you made for your 2<sup>nd</sup> class requirement)

Flashlight

Reading books (optional, not recommended for backpacking)

Deck of cards (optional)

Knife and Totin Chip (if already earned, otherwise you may not carry a knife)

Boy Scout Handbook (Required for all base camping, not recommended for backpacking)

Small notepad & pen (Required)

**Money** (Scouts are responsible for their own money)

**Backpack** (your gear must be packed so that you can carry it 200 yards to a campsite, by yourself, with at least one hand free at all times)

**Tent** (this is coordinated with your Patrol Leader to insure that enough tents are available). Two Scouts sharing a tent should also share in carrying it. Typically, the weight of a tent is divided evenly between the tent and a bundle containing the rain fly, poles and stakes.

**Plastic trash sack** for dirty clothes

**Fanny Pack** (optional but strongly recommended for hiking)

**Medications as needed.** The Scoutmaster must get a list of medications with dosage and instructions. This includes all over-the-counter medications as well as prescriptions medications. The forms used for Boxwell summer camp can also be used for this purpose. Under no circumstances are we permitted to “dispense” medications, even something as simple as a Tylenol or cough drop, without written instructions from a parent or guardian. A parent must personally administer medications that have serious or potentially dangerous side-effects or that may seriously interfere with a scout’s ability to participate safely in an activity.

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Cold Weather Gear  
(Check the weather forecast)

- Sweatshirt or Jacket (Cool)
- Sweatpants (Cold, severe cold)
- Gloves (Cold, severe cold)
- Thermal socks (Cold, severe cold)
- Extra set of dry clothes (Cool, cold, severe cold, all wet weather)
- Poncho liner (Cold, severe cold)
- Sweatshirt and Winter Jacket (Cold, severe cold)
- Long underwear (Cold, severe cold)
- Two extra t-shirts (Cold, severe cold)
- Winter hat, knit cap, or balaclava (Cold, severe cold)

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above 80°	Hot weather	
70°-80°		Mild weather
50°-70°		Cool and Wonderful weather
30°-50°		Cold weather
below 30°	Severe cold	

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Know your sleeping bag’s rating. Most rectangular bags (usually about 30" x 84") are rated down to 50°. Mummy bags are rated from about 20° down to below 0° depending on the bag. Adding a foam or inflatable pad under the sleeping bag increases its temperature range by 10°-15°.