

BASIC EQUIPMENT LIST FOR SCOUTS

The following represents a list of items that your scout will need to participate on Troop activities. Some of these items make great Christmas or birthday gifts for your son.

- Backpack
- Compass
- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight
- Ground Cloth
- Handbook (BSA)
- Hiking Boots/Shoes
- Knife
- Mess Kit/Vittles Kit
- Poncho/Rain Suit
- Sleeping Bag
- Water Bottle

BACKPACK:

A backpack is not an immediate need for new Scouts. Scouts will need one by the time they are ready to go on high adventure trips, but they are not required for the regular troop's camp outs. A backpack makes a great Christmas or birthday present. When you get a pack, make sure you get one with a frame. Be sure to ask for advice from the adult leaders.

COMPASS:

Scouts will eventually need a compass. We recommend the kind with a clear plastic base. Silva makes a very good, inexpensive compass that is available through Scouting Distributors. (Great stocking stuffer.)

FIRST AID KIT:

Scouts should bring a small first aid kit with them on camp outs containing: band aids, disinfectant wipes and aspirin (Tylenol). Please note that the leaders of the troop are not permitted to dispense any type of medicines to Scouts.

FLASHLIGHT:

Scouts should always have a flashlight on all campouts. Everready flashlight from the local hardware store is perfectly adequate. Mag Light now has a nice small size flash light that gives off a lot of light works great. They are easy to carry in your pocket or on your belt. A Boy Scout should always be prepared. Spare batteries are highly recommended.

GROUND CLOTH:

This is a valuable item to have on campouts. It is used under the tent (or inside) to keep things dry inside the tent if it rains. A 4-5' by 7' sheet of heavy plastic will work fine or you can purchase them.

HANDBOOK (BSA):

Scouts should have an official Boy Scout Handbook immediately upon joining the troop. They must bring their handbook to all Scout meetings and camp outs. The official Boy Scout Requirement Handbook is available that lists all requirements for Rank as well as the merit badges. Scouts obtain one of these when they finish the First Class rank or before. (See Handbook section of this manual.)

HIKING BOOTS/SHOES:

Good sturdy hiking shoes/boots are necessary when participating on camp outs when hiking. Hiking boots are not essential but will be required for some high adventure trips, they are a good idea. When waterproofed, they will keep your feet dry in wet weather. Scouts should **always** have two pairs of shoes on a camp out. Sneakers are not recommended for some activities. Once they get wet they stay wet. Nothing is more miserable than a wet scout.

KNIFE:

All Scouts should have a pocket knife on all camp outs. We strongly recommend an Official Boy Scout pocket knife with locking knife blade, can opener, screw driver, etc. The Scout Knife has decent quality steel in the blade and is not too difficult to keep sharp. Similar models are available at lower prices, but the quality of the steel is also a lower quality. Nothing is more dangerous than a dull knife. ***NOTE: Scouts may not carry a knife without first earning their Totin' Chip Card. Sheath Knives are not allowed in the Scouting Program.***

MESS KIT/VITTLES KIT:

The Boy Scouts make an official mess kit with two bowls (or plates), a small pot and a measuring cup. They also make a knife-fork-spoon set (vittle kit) that clips together when not in use. Both are very convenient, but not essential. Many Scouts use a plastic or Rubbermaid type bowl for eating, which will not get as hot when eating or washing your dishes. You must bring your own bowl and silverware for every campout.

PONCHO/RAIN SUIT:

All Scouts should be prepared and bring a poncho or rain suit on **all** camp outs! We go camping regardless of the weather.

SLEEPING BAG:

If you need to buy a sleeping bag, get a light weight bag that is rated to 20 degrees. It is not a problem to use another type of sleeping bag if you already own one. You can take extra blankets to insulate you on fall and winter camp outs. The weight of the sleeping bag will not be important until you are fourteen and are going on high adventure trips such as backpacking at Philmont or canoeing in Algonquin in Canada. All sleeping bags should have their own stuff sack. This is important so when traveling the bag won't get torn or damaged.

WATER BOTTLE:

There are many ways to carry water. The recommendation is a one quart (32 ounces) plastic water bottle with a wide mouth (1-2 inch diameter opening). Soda bottles are **not** a good idea. The plastic is very thin and will not withstand heavy use. Nalgene brand makes a very good product and are not very expensive. Canteens will work, but become difficult to clean and carry on a backpack. Check with others in the troop for their recommendations.

SCOUTING DISTRIBUTORS:

The following is a list of Official Boy Scout Equipment distributors:

Local Distributors:

Chester County Council
504 S. Concord Road
West Chester, PA 19382
1-800-30-SCOUT or (610)-969-2900

Coatesville Army & Navy
228 E. Lincoln Highway
Coatesville, PA
(610)384-1683

Kelly's Sports
Rte. 202 & Matlack Streets
West Chester, PA
(610)444-0482

Mitchell's Inc.
Rte. 202
Wilmington, DE
(302)652-3258

Pennsylvania Dutch Council
630 Janet Ave.
Lancaster, PA
(717) 394-4063

Pete's Outdoor
305 W. State Street
Kennett Square, PA
(610)444-0482

Valley Forge Scout Shop
King of Prussia, PA

Wilmington Scout Shop
Wilmington, DE

National Distributors:

Boy Scouts of America Supply Division
National Supply Division
National Distribution Center
PO Box 65989
Charlotte, NC 28265-0989

Other Equipment Distributors:

Cabela's
Hamburg, PA
1-800-237-4444
<http://www.cabelas.com>

Campmor
Parsippany, NJ
1-800-221-4821
<http://www.campmor.com>

L. L. Bean
1-800-221-4821
<http://www.llbean.com>

Another good source is:
Backpacker Magazine
<http://backpacker.com>