

## Personal Equipment Check List

- ✓ Sleeping Bag (pack in water resistant bag, trash bags are fine)
- ✓ Foam (closed cell) or air mat (if required)
- ✓ Pillow (as needed)
- ✓ Personal first aid kit (always)
- ✓ Poncho/rain gear (always)
- ✓ Mess Kit (plate/bowl/cup)
- ✓ Vittle Kit (fork, knife, spoon)
- ✓ Canteen with water (~1 liter)
- ✓ Pocket knife (after earning Tot'n Chip card)
- ✓ Bug repellent (summer)
- ✓ Sun block (summer)
- ✓ Scout Handbook and small notebook, pencil or pen (always)
- ✓ GORP (good old raisins and peanuts, trail mix)
- ✓ Money (if recommended by leaders)
- ✓ Toothbrush & paste
- ✓ Comb
- ✓ Personal Medicine (to be kept by leaders)
- ✓ 2 Large Plastic Trash Bags
- ✓ Hat (hot or cold)
- ✓ Uniform as required (normally Field Uniform). Unless otherwise stated, the Field Uniform is required for all outings.
- ✓ Boots/sneakers
- ✓ Extra Socks
- ✓ Wool socks (winter)
- ✓ Long Johns (Polypropylene work best in winter)
- ✓ Long pants/shorts
- ✓ T-shirts/warm shirt
- ✓ Jacket, coat or sweatshirt per the forecasted weather conditions
- ✓ Extra Underwear
- ✓ Sleep clothes
- ✓ Flash light with extra batteries
- ✓ Compass (if recommended)
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_

### Scoutmaster's Helpful Hints:

1. If you want it to stay dry, pack it in plastic
2. The scout is going on the trip, not the parent. Let the scout pack his own gear! He won't learn if Mom or Dad packs for him (First year scout, parents can check his gear).

## Equipping Your Scout

Please do not go out and buy a lot of equipment!

The Troop supplies cooking pots and utensils, dining flies, propane stoves, lanterns, fuel, patrol boxes, tents, etc.

### Your Scout NEEDS:

**Uniform** – Sold at the Keystone Area Council Scout Shop. “Experienced” uniforms are also available from the Troop and on eBay. You’ll need the shirt right away, short or long sleeve, belt and pants. On the shirt you will need the Council patch, the numbers 1-9-8. The American Flag comes on the shirt already in most cases. You will also need red shoulder epaulettes for the shirt. If you shop at the Scout Shop, they’ll know exactly what you need as long as you know your Troop #198

**Boy Scout Handbook** – Get it right away from the Scout Shop. Encourage your son to read the book in sections, beginning at the front. Read it with your son so you learn more about Scouting also. Every rank requirement the Scout fulfills gets signed off in his book. If he doesn’t have a book, he won’t have a record of achievements and things may be forgotten. The inside cover or first page of the Handbook can also be used to keep track of overnight camping, service hours and other troop activities that your son needs for rank advancement. It is up to him to keep track of these advancement requirements. The book is also a wealth of information about how Boy Scouts work and play.

### Your Scout may WANT:

**Knife** – Please hold off providing a knife to your son. Even though this is one of the first things the boys ask for, Scouts ***are not permitted to carry knives until they have been trained*** and have passed the Totin’Chip requirements. This is usually done during their first year at summer camp, approximately 3 months after joining the troop. When completed, a folding pocketknife is permitted. Sheath (fixed bladed) knives are not allowed.

**Boy Scout Field Book** – Not required but an excellent source of information on outdoor skills.

**Boy Scout Requirements Book** – Published annually by the BSA, it is an excellent resource when reviewing Merit Badge requirements and determining which Merit Badges your son would like to pursue.

**Mess Kit** – This is a personal cooking and eating kit with a plastic cup and metal pans. The kit fastens together for compact carrying. The Scout Kit is very good. Some cheaper ones don’t stay together. An official mess kit isn’t necessary, an aluminum plate and plastic bowl work just as well. However, scouts must have their own plates/bowls/cup and utensils on every outing. Please make sure your scout’s name is on each piece in his mess kit.

**Vittle Kit** – This is a fork, knife and spoon that fasten together. Scout set is great, some others are not. Same as the mess kit, you can substitute (don't send part of your good flatware set, you'll may never see it again).

**Flashlight** – One that is bright but easy to carry in a belt loop holder is recommended.

**Sleeping Bag** – Ask around before you buy, the leaders know what type is best for the Troop's style of camping. Weight, warmth, and fiber are all important factors.

**Insulated Mat** – It gives a little cushion and insulation from the ground. Many types range from pieces of foam to self-inflating air mats. Whatever the Scout uses, he'll have to carry – sometimes for many miles.

**Tent** – The troop at this time provides tents but some Scouts and families prefer to use their own which is acceptable.

**Hiking Boots** – Please do not purchase expensive hikers for your sons. Sensible walking / hiking boots that are waterproof if they have decent support are recommended. Your Scout will one-day stop growing, at which point you can consider expensive boots. Until then, use what they have. It's better to hike in a boot with mild support than to tear your feet up in boots that don't fit.

**Compass** – Compasses are recommended, we use them often and can be shared. Ask the leaders for the best type if you decide to purchase one.

**Backpack** – The troop has a few small ones owned by the Troop and others may be borrowed. Backpacks need to be sized for the boy and can be quite expensive. A backpack will be needed only when your scout does long distance hiking and overnight backpacking. Duffel bags are good for most campouts.

All gear should be marked with your Scout's name.

Places equipment can be purchased (not a complete list):

Dick's Sporting Goods

EMS

Wildware

Campmor.com

Keystone Area Council Scout Shop

Cabela's

Bass Pro Shop

Gander Mountain

Scoutdirect.com

Alpsmountaineering.com

REI.com

### **Patrol or Group Equipment**

- ✓ Tent(s) (with stakes and poles)
- ✓ Ground cloth
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Cooking utensils
- ✓ Patrol Box(es) (check to see it has what you need)
- ✓ Stove
- ✓ Propane Fuel
- ✓ Dining Fly
- ✓ Trash Bags
- ✓ Matches
- ✓ Kitchen clean up gear
- ✓ Troop first Aid Kit (always)
- ✓ Soap and cloth for dishes

Some things to keep in mind when packing:

- If you don't need, don't take it
- Select clothing for layers – easy on / easy off – traps air for warmth
- Packing all clothing in plastic bags is a good idea – you never know when you'll get wet
- Zip-lock bags are also great for keeping bug repellent and other gunky stuff from leaking on your gear
- Pack a dry set of clothes (especially underwear) – if you fall into water, you'll need to change (put in zip-lock bags). Backpackers keep it light; make sure one set of clothes is dry even if you already wore it – stick the dirty ones in the zip-lock
- Basic first aid kits – Band-Aids, moleskin, needle and thread (for your gear, not you), pack so you can get it fast.
- Don't smell like food! All those good smelling deodorants, shampoos, hair goo, etc. smell good to bees, bugs, bears, and other assorted critters. If you don't smell like food, they won't be as eager to taste you. Remember NEVER take food into your tent. You have no idea what kind of critters you will attract!
- Parents: Let the Scout pack his gear so he knows what he has and where it is. The worst thing he can say to a leader is that his mother forgot to pack something. A Scout learns by making mistakes, sometimes, if it's not life threatening, it's best to let him forget something like his mess kit. If you want to check his gear for first few times, have him gather everything and lay it out next to the pack. You check it and then let him pack it. It's easy to see what was forgotten by looking at what is left on the floor where he laid it out. Remember it's the scout's responsibility pack his own gear.

Note: This is a general list to help jog your memory. You do not need everything on this list, nor does this list have everything you may need.