

Troop 626 – Packing Guidelines

The sooner you can have your scout take ownership of packing for a camp out the better off they will be. As an adult leader, we always enjoy giving a little grief to a scout who says “I forgot my _____ (water bottle, mess kit, flashlight, you name it). Do you have an extra I can use?” When you ask how that happened they almost always say, “My Mom forgot to pack it”. Our response as leaders is always, “It was not your Mom’s job to pack for you. It was your job.” Sometimes the best lessons are the ones a scout learns when they go a weekend having to borrow or go without something because they forgot to bring it. They always seem to make do and we help out where it is appropriate for the scout’s safety or the situation warrants.

Have them think and answer the questions: What will I be doing? How long will I be gone? What will the weather be like? What stuff do you always want along for survival, personal hygiene, emergencies and routine use?

As they think through the packing plan and what they will need we encourage them to compile a list starting with their clothes, then gear you always want along and then stuff nice to have along.

For clothes we encourage scouts to think from inside to outside and bottom to top. Start at the feet and work toward the head from bottom layer (closest to the skin) to outer layers. It seems to provide some order to the process rather than stuff pulled together in a random, haphazard order.

Unless otherwise instructed, always have the scout pack his clothes and gear in a large, soft-sided bag, like a duffel or gym bag and/or a backpack. Water resistant type bags/packs work best as we can’t always guarantee a dry place to store them. Packing gear inside a garbage bag inside a duffel pack also works very well for water proof storage. We strongly encourage minimizing the amount of gear the scouts bring along. Try to get everything packed into one bag including sleeping bags and pads. If it doesn’t fit use a second bag. It is easier for the scout to keep track of two duffel bags than it is for the scout to keep track of one duffel bag and a loose sleeping pad, mess kit, pillow, and jacket. Remember, loose items get lost or left behind!

We also strongly suggest that scouts get used to not bringing their bedroom pillow to camp. There are a host of options for pillows in the camping world – stuffable jackets, small packable backpacking pillows, or travel pillows. Large bedroom pillows are virtually destroyed after a single campout. The best bet is to send them to camp with their favorite pillow case and tell them to stuff their fleece jacket inside it.

The following is a helpful list to use while packing:

Troop 626 – Packing List

Clothes

- 2 –3 pair of socks (they will probably wear only one pair)
- 2 pair of underwear (ditto)
- 1 set of long underwear (nice to sleep in if we have a cool night)
- 2 T-shirts (Again, they will only wear one)
- shoes/boots for in camp (see we are back to the bottom now with the outer layer)
- 2 pairs of pants (ditto but if one pair gets wet they should have another)
- 1 pair of shorts
- 1 long sleeve shirt
- 1 ball cap or hat
- Brown Scout shirt (on the scout when they arrive for camp out departure)
- Medium weight jacket or sweater (fleece is great)
- Rain pants and rain jacket
- 1 winter weight stocking cap (nice to sleep in on a cold night)

Gear—The “Always List”

- Water bottle
- Compact flashlight and extra batteries—on a lanyard so it can hang around the neck is good
- Safety whistle
- Good Compass
- Matches in a waterproof case
- Personal toiletries in a bag (toothbrush, deodorant, etc)
- Personal Medications if any (turned into the Trip Leader before departing St. O’s)
- Mess Kit (plate, cup, bowl, knife, fork, spoon and mesh bag for hang drying) scout name on all!
- Pocketknife
- 1 larger plastic trash bag (emergency shelter, emergency rain poncho, bag for filthy clothes, etc)
- Small roll or a couple handfuls of toilet paper in a zip lock bag (emergency use only)
- Sun Screen
- Mosquito/tick repellent (Non-Aerosol Only! Please either lotion or the pump bottle)
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad

Gear- Nice to have along

- Medium sized backpack or fanny pack with water bottle holder
- Personal first aid/survival kit (if they don’t have one now they will make one later)
- Pillow (an empty pillowcase they can stuff a few clothes into to make a pillow—saves space)
- Sunglasses
- Small hand towel
- Book to read?
- Playing cards?
- Other personal items - **ABSOLUTELY NO PERSONAL ELECTRONICS!**

Please Always Encourage your Scout to Bring These

Good Spirit, lots of laughs, a curious and helpful disposition and a few funny jokes or stories for around the campfire.

Good Camping!