

Winter Camping Gear Checklist

Ok, so you decided to take the plunge and go camping with us in the winter. What do you need? Well, let's start with warm clothes. But more than that, you need to understand that to keep warm, you have to keep dry. The bold items are the ones that you need to pay particular attention to for cold weather camping (not just winter)

Gear:

Sleeping bag, rated to at least 0 degrees. Don't have one that good? Then use 2, one inside the other.

Sleeping Mat. This is essential for keeping you warm (insulates you from the ground, which is very cold)

Refillable, sealable Water Bottle (Like a Nalgene)

Cup for hot/cold drinks

Spoon/Fork combo or spork

Reusable Bowl (quart size for eating out of)

Flashlight

Pocket Knife

Compass

Whistle

Rope

Clothes

You want to dress in layers during the winter. The layers allow you to trap air between them which helps to keep you warm. It also allows you to adjust more easily to changing conditions. Take a layer or 2 off when you are moving around, put some on when you are standing, sitting.

2 Changes of socks and underwear. This is true even if we are only going overnight.

Change of Shirt/Pants

Thermal Underwear (not cotton if possible)

Sweater

Winter Coat, This should be at least wind proof and hopefully at least water resistant.

Gloves/Mittens

Winter Hat: You lose most of your heat through your head. Keep your head warm and the rest of you will be warm

Complete change of clothes for sleeping (socks/underwear/ thermals, etc).

This is ESSENTIAL. If you go to bed in clothes that you have perspired in all day, you will be very cold at night.

Rain jacket/pants (pants are recommended by not required). Again, to stay warm you must stay dry

Hiking boots or other winter boots (no sneakers)

Camp shoes (sneakers or similar, no open toe sandals)

Personal Hygiene

Toothpaste/toothbrush

Soap

Toilet Paper

Sunscreen

Bug Spray (not in winter)

contact lens case/water/extra lenses

Other

Day Pack

Tent with ground cloth (normally supplied by the troop)

Camp Chair