

# TROOP 332

## SCOUT PERSONAL GEAR LIST

*Welcome to the Troop. This guide should provide some basic information of the gear you'll need during your years as a Scout. Gear can be expensive. Our goal is to help you prioritize what you need for your first overnight outing and what you'll need over the long haul. The goal is to give options for budget gear, and better long term gear. As with most items in life, many camping and outdoor items fall into the old saying "you get what you pay for." That does not mean you need to go out and buy the most expensive items there are however, many great items can be bought for just a few more dollars.*

### **General Principles:**

1. Cotton is bad
2. Lite is good
3. Lite is expensive
4. Scouts lose the small stuff
5. Cotton is bad

**For camping cotton is bad.** Cotton does not wick moisture, does not keep you warm when it gets wet and unfortunately does not dry out very quickly. Do not bring cotton on a Scout outing (camping, hiking, etc). Yes this includes sweatshirts, T shirts, socks, briefs, Jeans, etc.

**Go lite.** Keep the weight of gear in mind. As we will be doing a lot of backpacking and or camping over the next few years it's best to start getting low weight gear now instead of heavy gear now and buying another set later. Lite gear tends to be more expensive so prioritize purchases on the important stuff first.

**Where did my \_\_\_ go?** I know it's a shock but things tend to get lost. Knives, headlamps, compasses . . . anything small and expensive will be the first to go. We suggest not going overboard and buying expensive versions of anything that's likely to get left, broken or misplaced.

### **Resources:**

*There are a number of places to get more detail on gear and to buy gear. Below is a sample list. Remember your Scoutmasters and fellow Parents are usually your best resources. The following are a list of some great websites for items.*

Amazon, campmor, sierratradingpost, rei.com, northernmountain, Tiny Trekker and backcountrygear. Also there are great discount websites like steepandcheap, just price compare as they are not always the cheapest.

### **WHAT DO I BUY FIRST?**

If your first overnighter is in a week do you have to buy everything right now for it? No. In fact, the Troop Scoutmasters and others probably have some of the basic gear you can borrow. Check before you buy. After your first outing, after you've been bitten by the camping bug (and a few mosquitoes) you should plan on what to buy first. Below is a general guide.

1. Sleeping Bag
2. Sleeping Pad
3. Rain gear
4. Anything missing from the Scout Basic Essentials
5. Shoes

## THE SCOUT BASIC ESSENTIALS

*From a simple day hike to a 5 day 50 miler, there are essential items you need to carry with you. You can find this list on page \_\_\_ of your Boy Scout Handbook.*

**Pocketknife:** Wait. Even though they may have a knife from Webelos, they need to get their Toten' Chit before they can use a pocket knife on outings.

**First Aid Kit:** Do not buy. We will make personal first aid kits during a meeting.

**Rain Gear:** I prefer a full rain suit, we tend to have more rain then we ever want, and the full suit can be put into 1 stuff sack.

**Water Bottle:** 1 or 2 [Nalgene](#) wide mouth bottles are dishwasher safe and almost indestructible.

**Flashlight:** I highly suggest a headlamp and make sure to pack extra batteries. Walmart sells energizer ones, and REI has Black Diamond brand for an affordable price. Try to look for a 120-200 Lumen model.

**Matches and Fire-starter:** Wait.

**Sun Protection:** SPF 30 or higher, it is also very easy to find smaller bottles that have insect repellent with the sunscreen. Sawyer Premium with or without Deet is a backpacking favorite.

**Map and Compass:** Buy a compass. Scouts usually use Silva-type compasses.

## PERSONAL CAMPING CHECKLIST

*So you're doing more than a hike and/or going out overnight camping.*

**The Scout Basic Essentials:** See above

### **Clothing appropriate for the season and weather:**

**Footwear:** When you look at new sneakers, consider purchasing low cut hiking, or even better, trail-running shoes instead of items like "skate" shoes or basic running shoes.

**Base or Wicking layer:** From shirts to boxers/briefs you want the layer of clothes closest to your skin to move the moisture (from sweat, rain, etc) away from your body (to wick) so that your body can properly stay warm. Cotton does the opposite. There are a number of synthetic materials like Cool-max , Capilene and others that work well for this base level. You can find clothes made from this at Target, REI and other sporting goods stores. Same rule applies for socks. But in addition to these synthetic materials wool provides the right combination of cushion, wicking and warmth. The troop also offers both short and long-sleeve Class B shirts in a synthetic material.

**Insulation layer:** This is the next layer out. We dress in layers, often piling on 4 or 5 smaller layers instead of 3 big ones. Generally this layer is your fleece layer. Fleece is pretty much the standard uniform. Because of this we can often find fleece jackets of various thicknesses and sizes at thrift stores. Check here first.

**Outerwear and rain wear:** See the rain wear discussion above. Also, depending on the season, a light nylon windbreaker may be all you need (especially if you have enough insulation layers). Generally this layer serves to protect you from wind and/or rain.

*Suggested:* I have high regards for youth [Frogg Toggs Polly Woggs](#)

**Hat and gloves:** A fleece ski hat is almost a required item. The best way to stay warm at night in your tent is to keep your hat on. Like wise a good pair of water proof gloves can make a wet cold morning much better.

**Backpack with rain cover:** Even though there are two general options for backpacks – internal and external frames – Scouts tend to like to have what the other guys have and the other guys generally gravitate toward internal frames because they are “cooler”. Your best bet is to go to REI and to try one on, to load some stuff in it and have them walk around a bit. It’s important that the pack fit. If you get it at REI they can fit it to the Scout. Scouts should not need more than 60L.

Suggested: The cheap route is to head over to Walmart and in there sports department look at a 50L Outdoor Gear bag.

For longer term quality look at REI Passage 65, [Osprey Ace 50](#), [Gregory Wanderer 50L](#). All these may also come in a 70L.

**Sleeping Bag:** Buy. If you’re going to spend some money, invest in a decent, light weight sleeping bag. There are two schools of thought: Go super-lite and expensive with down or go synthetic. I’d recommend going the down route. There are some relatively low weight, low cost bags out there. We’re suggesting opting for a 3 season bag (20-40 degree). You want to balance weight (under 3lbs), size (does it compress well) and cost. The bag should compress to under 9” x 16”. Mummy-style bags are generally warmer than rectangular bags. Make sure the bag also has a stuff sack or even buy a compression bag for it.

Suggested: I really can't recommend the [Kelty Cosmic Down 21](#) bag enough, It is a 20 degree down bag, small and light weight and very low cost for a down bag.

**Sleeping pad:** Buy. You need something between your bag and the ground. Scouts generally can sleep on anything. Scoutmasters . . . not so much. For the Scouts, a simple closed-cell sleeping pad will do. The majority of your weight is placed on your torso, so your Pad need not be longer than knee length. You can use your pack to insulate your feet from the ground.

Suggested: A foam pad works best and if that is the route you want to go then the [Therm-A-Rest Z-Lite SOL](#) is the best, and folds easily for scouts. My suggestion for a step up, and a huge size and weight down is any of the klymit sleeping pads, my choice is the [Klymit Inertia X-Lite](#) which is the size of a can of soda.

**Tents:** A tent is something you will hopefully have for 5-10 years and is an item of great investment. Don't rush to get a tent as scouts share tents and the troop has a couple extras if there needed early on. If your looking to just get a tent so your scout has one then Walmart carries a cheaper Ozark 2 or 3 man tent for under 35.00 that will last for year or so. Once your ready to invest though you want to look at a quality tent. Most scouts and adults like a 3 person tent for the extra space they provide. The suggested tents are all highly recommended.

Suggested: [Mountainsmith Morrison 3](#), [Kelty Trail Ridge 3](#), [Marmot Limelite 3](#), [REI Passage 2](#) All of these can be had on sale for under 200.00 and several come with ground cloths included.

**Ground Cloth:** A ground cloth made specifically for your tent will save room and weight, the small cost over 4-6 years is worth it.

**Spoon, Plate, Bowl, Cup:** No glass or ceramic. Metal and plastic only. Also small, the entire kit should fit in a gallon sized Zip-lock bag (with the bag still able to be closed, and that's probably a little big anyway). An easy solution is Tupperware.

**Stuff Sacks:** A stuff sack is how you keep your stuff clean and separated. Putting 1 change of clothes in each bag means your scout and change clothes and put there dirty clothes right back in the bag. I highly recommend just buying 6 or 9 stuff sacks for various items. Walmart has a 3 pack with 3 different sizes for a very cheap cost. I

usually put a change of clothes in 2 of the same color, my rain gear in one, and use the others for snacks, ten essentials etc.

#### GROUP GEAR

**Tents, Stoves, Cook pots:** Will be provided by the troop.