

# Startup Camping Equipment

Our troop has some of the equipment you will use when we go camping such as tents, camp stoves, cooking utensils and pots sets. However, as a new scout, there is some personal equipment you will need when we go camping. Many of these items can be found in your local shops and sporting goods stores. Also you should check online sites such as **cabelas.com** or **campmore.com**.

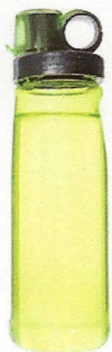
Whether we camp in tents or a cabin, you will need a good sleeping bag. Generally when we go tent camping in the colder months the temperatures can be as low as 25 degrees (November and March). We recommend that you purchase a sleeping bag that is rated for 30 to 40 degrees. This type of bag is a good all purpose bag and can be made warmer with a fleece lining or wearing long underwear. The cost for this bag can range from \$50 - \$80 dollars. If your son decides to stay in scouting you may want to invest in a zero degree bag for much colder weather. If you already have a bag and feel that your son will be comfortable, this will be just fine. Nothing can ruin a camping trip for a young scout than a cold nights sleep.



Along with the sleeping bag the scout will need a sleeping pad. This pad is used under the sleeping bag. It helps insulate from the cold and protects the sleeping bag from condensation. There is a wide variety of this product. The most basic is approximately 3/8 inch thick and can cost between \$16 - \$20 dollars

A new scout will need a basic mess kit, cup and eating utensils. Whether we are doing Troop cooking or Patrol cooking, a scout needs to eat. A basic mess kit can cost from \$14 - \$20 dollars. A metal mess kit allows the scout to use it on a camp stove and is more versatile than plastic. Utensils can be metal or plastic. We recommend an insulated cup with a lid. It keeps drinks hot/cold, prevents spillage and keeps out the bugs. Most families have this type of cup for coffee.





Also the scout will need a water bottle or canteen. On most camping trips we go on a hike. The boys need to stay hydrated. We recommend a plastic BPA free bottle. It is lightweight and easy to clean. The cost for this item is about \$10 dollars.

Guess what? It gets dark at night! Every scout needs a flash light. We recommend a small LED flashlight. It is easy to pack and put in your pocket and the batteries last longer. It can also be brought inside the sleeping bag if the scout has issues with the dark.



It is a rule in our troop that every scout needs a pair of hiking boots. On some of our trips, we are hiking in areas where a scout could easily slip if they are wearing sneakers. **Snow boots are not hiking boots.** The use of hiking boots is to protect the scout and assure a safe weekend. No scout will be allowed to attend a trip without a pair of boots. We recommend that a new pair of boots be worn prior to the trip to help break them in.

On occasion, it does rain on a camping trip. A scout needs a rain poncho. This can be purchased at sporting good stores or all purpose stores like Walmart. Make sure the size is right for the scout's size (It should end just below the knee). The quality of the poncho is important. An inexpensive poncho costing \$3 - \$5 dollars falls apart after the first use. We recommend purchasing a poncho that cost between \$12 - \$16 dollars. It will last longer and become a part of the scout's permanent equipment.



Eventually a scout will need a backpack. We understand that your son may change his mind about scouting. The proper backpack is an investment and cost approximately \$100 dollars. For now, an inexpensive barrel bag will do. It should be big enough to carry a change of clothes and the items mentioned above (minus the sleeping bag and pad). For those who wish to purchase the backpack, we recommend an External Frame Backpack. This type of pack allows the scout to secure a sleeping bag and pad to the pack.

