

TROOP 147 - BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Winter Camping Equipment List



Our list of required items is based on our leader's years of experience, and OKPIK training for camping in snow and extreme conditions.

Our paramount concern is a scouts safety and comfort while having fun camping in the winter.

Choose lots of loose layers rather than a single thick layer. Be able to open up & ventilate or shed layers if you overheat and add layers as you cool down. A single thick layer offers you no options.

For our Troops winter camping experience, we want you to know that 4 of our leaders have OKPIK Winter Camping training and all have camped in the winter. Winter camping can be a very rewarding experience and a confidence booster for the first time winter camper. It does require careful preparation and a few special items. Please be aware that such items as sleeping bags, hats, socks, boots and long underwear *must* be provided by each participant.

As you prepare for the weekend there are several important points to remember about materials and insulation and how to stay warm. Remember:

- Wool is a better insulator than cotton. Even when wet, wool still retains its insulating value. Check surplus and thrift stores as sources for wool items.
- Goose down, a very good insulator, is difficult to use in a field-type setting. Once wet, down is very difficult to dry and loses all of its insulating value. Use down only if you're experienced in how to handle it.
- The preferred insulator for sleeping bags and jackets are synthetic fills, such as, Hollofill, Quallofill or Thinsulate, as an example.
- The preferred and popular fiber today for outdoor clothing are the fleeces such as Polarfleece and Polartech. These synthetics are great insulators and are making wool obsolete for winter clothing.

Required Items: You must bring these items!

- ◇ Sleeping bag; a zero degree mummy bag is best, but you can add a fleece liner to a good twenty degree bag.
- ◇ A stocking cap– balaclava style would be great. A second dry knit cap to wear while sleeping.
- ◇ 2-3 pairs of mittens (mittens are warmer than gloves).
- ◇ 2-3 sweaters and/or shirts (wool or fleece are best).
- ◇ Winter coat, preferably hooded.
- ◇ 1-2 sets of synthetic, wool blend or silk long underwear. This layer should not be cotton!
- ◇ 1-2 pairs of pants. Loose fitting cargo style, not cotton. Option B would be insulated ski pants. No jeans or cotton!
- ◇ 3 pairs of socks minimum (wool and wool blends are best).
- ◇ Pak boots with removable felt liners (Sorels, as a brand name, are an example). No leather hunting boots please. Leather will get wet and be cold. We will not accept anyone with leather boots, or tennis shoes.
- ◇ A Vest (Insulated or fleece).
- ◇ Sunglasses, and Sun Protection.
- ◇ Ground Cloth and Pad.
- ◇ Normal camping items (Pocket Knives, water bottle etc...)



Look carefully for all the recommended items to bring!

Cotton should not be a part of any of your clothing items. Cotton gets wet easily and is impossible to dry in the field. The key to winter warmth is to stay dry—choose your clothes carefully!

Pack everything into plastic bags, and then into duffel bags.

