

Camping Equipment for Webelos

These recommendations are designed for Webelos scouts who are joining Troop 55. The camping gear that was used in Cub Scouts is usually sufficient for the initial campouts with the troop, and there is no need to purchase new gear all at once.

1. Tent – A small lightweight two-man, three-season version with a rain fly that covers almost to the ground. A ground cloth is needed, preferably a footprint version that is made for the specific tent. A small vestibule (area under the rain fly, but outside of the tent) is great for storing boots overnight. Should be 6 pounds or less, counting the ground cloth.
2. Sleeping bag – Synthetic-filled version, rated for 20 degrees, and a waterproof compression bag. Try for under 4 pounds. As an option for warmer weather, a fleece bag (a lightweight blanket plus a zipper) is nice.
3. Sleeping pad – Lightweight. Three-quarter length is usually sufficient. (The Thermarest and Z-rest brands are popular.)
4. Eating, water – Small lexan bowl, a cup, and a soup spoon (fork and knife are optional). Two Nalgene one-liter bottles.
5. Day pack – Small backpack for day hikes. Small but sufficient to carry rain gear, lunch, and water bottles or water bladder with drinking tube.
6. Rain suit – Lightweight but tough material, breathable. Avoid ponchos.
7. Clothes – Quick-drying nylon hiking shorts and long pants (green or tan), and nylon or poly quick-drying t-shirts. The nylon pants that have zip-off legs are popular. Some scouts like the shorts that have a mesh lining. Avoid cotton fabrics.
8. Warmth – Fleece jacket, and fleece or wool knit hat. Fleece pants and gloves are good if cool-natured. A fleece vest is useful in combination with some rain jackets. Again, avoid cotton fabrics.
9. Boots – Ankle high waterproof hiking boots. Synthetic or wool socks, and synthetic liners.
10. Flashlight – Small, two AA batteries. Headlamps are popular, and the LED models claim to use up batteries more slowly.
11. Towel – An old household towel will do initially, but a quick-drying backpacking towel will be needed later.
12. Compass, whistle – A compass is needed for the hikes and orienteering, and the simple versions are best. A whistle is useful for some activities. Attach a loop of string.
13. If committed to Scouting, a backpack (see comments below).

Troop 55 provides the following for each patrol:

- Dining fly and poles
- Propane stove
- Cook kit and cleaning items
- Propane lantern

Troop 55 also gives each new scout a troop neckerchief and Scout Handbook. Purchasing a cover for the Scout Handbook is good (available at the Scout Shop).

Additional comments:

Tents -- The troop does not endorse any specific brands, but the Clip Flashlight by Sierra Design, REI's Clipper, and REI's Half Dome models are popular. These are backpacking tents, and are not required initially. But, if buying a new tent, it is good to get a model that will work for high adventure treks.

Backpacks – There are two basic designs - internal frame and external frame - and either design will work. The main issue is FIT. Get a pack that fits now and can be adjusted to fit when the scout has grown another foot. The better camping stores have staff that can adjust the backpack to the individual scout. A pack with a volume of 2600 to 3500 cubic inches is sufficient for most younger scouts. Older scouts sometimes use packs with volume of 4000 cubic inches or more. Purchase a rain cover that works with the specific pack.

Identification – The scout's name should be on every item of clothing and virtually every item of camping gear. It is not unusual for 15 scouts to be wearing the same brand and color of rain jacket.

PFD – For water activities such as canoeing, a personal floatation device or life jacket will be required. Some activities require a Type III PFD. Purchasing a PFD can be done later when additional guidelines will be given.