

# PACK 244

## CAMPING EQUIPMENT 101

There are several different types of camping. There is what is commonly known as “Car Camping”, backpacking and primitive camping. Our Pack pretty much focuses on car camping. In other words, we can drive directly to or within a few yards of where we will actually be camping. Depending on the site, you may be 10 feet of your site but not usually more than 50 yards away. Therefore, you are not too concerned with bulk or weight as you would be in backpacking.

If you are wondering what is needed for our camping trips, the following list will get you on your way:

### STAGE I ESSENTIALS

- Tent – Pretty much any tent will do but make sure you get one that will comfortably hold you and your scout along with some gear. As a general rule, whatever the manufacture claims is the size of the tent divided by 2 will be comfortable. i.e. a 4 man tent will be comfortable for 2. You may want to borrow a tent or rent one for your first outing to see what works best for you. Seeing all the different types of tents on a camping trip will help in evaluating what you need. (Practice setting up your tent at home before you first trip). Good shopping places for car camping tents are Sears, Target and Dicks Sporting Goods. Watch the Sunday flyers in the N&O for sales.
- Ground Cloth- Regardless of what your tent has as a bottom, I recommend using a separate ground cloth. Heavy mil. plastic is fine. The most critical part of using a ground cloth is to not let the ground cloth extend beyond the drip line of your tent. If you do, rain will roll off your tent and right under your tent. The best way to get it right is to set your tent up on top of a ground cloth and then cut your ground cloth a little larger then your tent footprint. After setting the tent on the ground cloth, fold the ground cloth up under the tent.
- Air Mattress or Pad – Any type of air mattress or sleeping pad will work. Keep in mind how you will inflate your air mattress! It takes a lot of puffing to inflate a queen size!!

- Pillow- Don't forget a pillow
- Flashlight- any flashlight is better than none. Hold off buying a lantern until later.
- Ice Chest – For food
- Eating Utensils – Consider what you need for food preparation and eating. Plastic silverware is fine. Paper plates, paper cups both work fine. I would not recommend going out and buying a fancy set of utensils or a kit. These are all right, but you will learn more as you camp about what you need most. Carrying utensils in Tupperware works great. A can opener is important when you need one.
- Stove – No need to buy a stove to begin with. Partner up with another scout to cook with or borrow a stove from a friend or use someone else's after they are done.
- Chair- folding chair is nice but maybe not essential.
- Insect Repellent –
- Hammer – For driving in tent stakes
- Trash Bags –
- A few zip lock bags of various sizes work great for storage of left over food and other “stuff”
- Sleeping Bag or Blanket – Consider the weather. It may work fine to use sheets and blankets in lieu of sleeping bags. If you purchase a sleeping bag try to get a 3 or 4 season bag. In Cub Scouts we do not do much cold weather camping so a bag that has a 40 or 50 degree rating is probably fine.
- Rain Jackets –
- Wash Cloth and Towel (with soap) –
- **POCKET KNIVES FOR SCOUTS ARE NOT ALLOWED UNTIL THE SCOUT EARNS HIS WHITTLLING CHIP AS A BEAR!**

## STAGE II GEAR

- Stove – You have two main choices here. Propane or Gas. Propane is convenient but does not burn as hot. You buy propane refills and screw them on. Gas “Coleman Fuel” (not true gasoline) burns hotter than propane but requires a little more effort.
- Cookware – Only get the essential items you need to begin. A couple of different size pots, a large frying pan and a kettle are the basics.

- A dishpan for washing dishes and misc. storage. Include soap and sponge and drying towels.
- Water Container – A collapsible water carrier 1 – 3 gallon
- Hiking Boots –

### STAGE III GEAR

- Rain Tarp – 8’x10’ minimum size with sufficient rope for hanging. (+/- 100’)
- Tarp Poles – 2 –4 extendable poles Up to about 8’help tremendously with tarp set up. There is not always just the right amount of trees where you need them.
- Lantern – Four types to choose from. Battery, “Coleman fuel”, propane, dual fuel. Dual fuel uses either unleaded gas or Coleman Fuel. (I **DO NOT** RECOMMEND DUAL FUEL FOR SAFTEY REASONS). Obviously you can use a battery lantern in your tent. However, a propane or Coleman fuel type will burn brighter but **can not** be used in a tent
- Hatchet –
- Axe –
- Higher end sleeping bags for colder weather –
- Lantern hook for hanging a lantern off a tree –
- More extensive cooking gear and utensils–
- Plastic Table Cloth –

Camping is one of the most fun activities we do as a PACK. Please do not let the gear or inexperience as a camper keep you away.

Rentals – REI @ Crossroads Plaza