

# Properly Outfitting your Boy Scout

## Why is it important?

- Boy Scouts camp in harsh conditions.
- Boy Scouts and Scout Troops are built on the lore of outings where the conditions are harsh.
- Harsh means cold, wet and sometimes both.
- A Scout's self-worth grows when he is able to be self sufficient.

## How to do it.

- Make this your son's project not your project, since he is the one camping
- Create a gear list
- Half the fun of owning gear is researching, scheming and then finally acquiring the gear
- Birthdays and Christmas are excellent times to give gear
- Reuse household items (i.e. retiring an old book bag at the end of a school year, gator-aid bottles...)
- No gear list is ever complete
- Every item is upgradeable
- Remember your Scout will be growing

## What to put on the gear list?

Lists in Scout hand book

- Page 201, 203, 205
- Page 221-225

### The big three

- Sleeping bag & sleeping pad
  - Most important item
  - Buy for long term
  - Mummy type bag with at least 20 degree rating
  - Try out at store
- Shelter
  - Can share with some one else
  - Tent
  - Hammock
  - Complete rain fly coverage
  - Zipper netting
  - 2 person size
- Backpack
  - Buy based on need
  - Sizing is critical

### Top ten list

- Knife (buy after earning tot'em chip)
- Compass (liquid filled, polaris type)

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- Water bottle
- Rope
- Matches
- Map
- Extra clothes
- Food/ snacks
- 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit
- Rain gear
- Sunscreen

## Clothing

- Most important consideration is material—NO 100% Cotton
- For a material to be useful, it must wick away moisture and not lose loft when wet
- Think synthetic materials - from high tech materials to polyester
- Think layers: comfort, bulk & shell
  - Comfort
    - Next to skin
    - Dry set for sleeping
    - Underwear and socks
  - Bulk
    - Insulation
    - Think fleece
    - Multiple pieces
    - Skull cap
  - Shell
    - Block wind and rain
    - Could be thin
    - Boots vs shoes and sandals
    - gloves
    - zippered vs pull over
- Cost vs performance
- Remember your son will grow
- Sports jerseys and work out clothes (under armor - top end to target tee's)
- Fleece (old navy, walmart...)
- Dry set for sleeping

## Where to buy?

Lay my hands on it - Most of these are listed on our [Outfitters Page](#)

- REI
  - Try it our
  - Talk to sales staff
- BassPro
- Dick's Sporting Goods

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## On-line

- Campmor - [www.campmor.com](http://www.campmor.com)
- Sierra Trading Post - <http://www.sierratradingpost.com/>
- REI - <http://www.rei.com/outlet/> & <http://www.rei.com>
- L.L. Bean - <http://www.llbean.com/>