

# **TROOP 51**

## ***Parents' Guide***

### **To**

## ***Scout Gear***



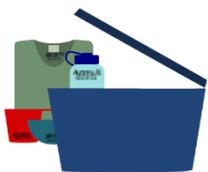
## Three Things Parents Can Do To help Scouts with their gear



**Please put your Scout's name on everything.** If they are attending an event with dozens of other scouts and misplace a piece of clothing or gear there's a much better chance it will find its way back them if it is clearly marked with full name and troop number.

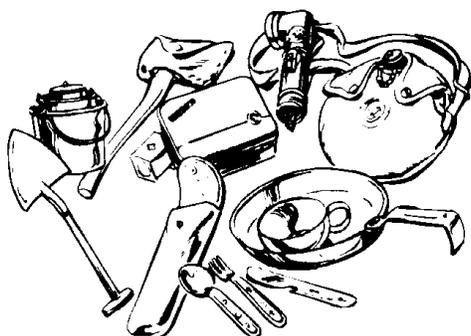


**Please do not pack for your scout.** If you pack for your scout, they will not know what they have or where it is. Letting scouts pack for themselves is a little trying for some parents. Work with them instead. Start with a pack list (see the troop website). Lay everything out and check it off as they pack it. Will they forget something? Almost certainly! The leaders do and we have been doing this longer. Building self-sufficiency is an important part of scouting, and packing your own gear is a great way to do just that.



**Please help your scout keep track of their gear.** Scouts are always saying they do not have a piece of gear because they could not find it at home. After each camping trip see that they unpack, check that their gear is clean and dry and store it in a plastic tub (like the one we recommend for summer camp) so it is there for the next trip.

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Here are some gear pointers to make your scout's camping trips better. These are suggestions to get started.

Have your scout write his name on every piece of gear, piece of clothing, etc. You would be amazed what they get separated from. They all have similar looking stuff and they like to leave it laying around. So, unless you want to keep buying him new stuff **HAVE HIM WRITE HIS NAME ON EVERY PIECE OF GEAR.**

Please do not send your scout with all their stuff in a garbage bag. Yes, it keeps it dry but also tears easily. A duffle bag or large laundry bag WITH a garbage bag inside is better.

Here is a list of gear separated into types:

- Essential Gear – the basics for his scouting activities. This is the majority.
- Good to have – mid-level/next level equipment
- Nice to Have - things that make life outdoors a little easier or enjoyable

Where applicable I have made alternate suggestions for substitutions that can save you money.

Essential Gear	
	Class A Uniform Shirt & Neckerchief. This is worn to almost all meetings and to most events.
	Scout Handbook – this should always be with a scout. It contains everything a scout needs to know to enjoy the outdoors and meet most challenges.
	Pad of Paper and a pen/pencil. He should keep this with his scout handbook.
	Day Pack - to carry their hiking essentials (see Scout Handbook). Each scout needs one for all outdoor activities. <i>Tip: Line this with a garbage bag to keep contents dry.</i>
	Mess Kit. <b>We do not supply disposable plates and cups.</b> Many configurations exist for a wide range of prices. Walmart has a few for \$12. <i>Tip: The easiest and cheapest is a plastic bowl and an insulated mug.</i>
	Eating utensil. There are many configurations out there. A knife, fork and spoon are needed. The simplest is the spork. Walmart has these for \$8. <i>Tip: An old metal soup spoon works in a pinch</i>
	Sleeping Bag – <b>minimum rating of 30 degrees.</b> The lower the rating the better it is for cold nights. Walmart sells them for \$40. <i>Tip: Coleman Military Surplus (<a href="https://colemans.com/">https://colemans.com/</a>) has US Military Patrol bags for around \$30 (rated to 30 degrees). These are great bags. Plus, they only weigh 5 lbs and compress down small.</i>

	Foam Sleep pad – Insulates you from the ground when sleeping. Also, serves as good insulation on a cot for cold nights. Walmart has these for approximately \$15. <i>Tip: A folded Moving blanket is a decent substitute</i>
	18-gallon Rubbermaid tote. This is <b>essential gear for summer camp</b> to be used as a foot locker - good to transporting gear, easy to pack, easy to carry, helps keep gear dry, fits perfectly at the end of a cot. Walmart has these for approximately \$20.
	Rain Gear- never know when you might need it and nothing ruins a day out than getting cold and wet. Ponchos are the cheapest option, but a <a href="#">rain jacket is the best option</a> .
	Pocket knife-as long as your scout has earned his Totem Chip he can carry a pocket knife. Keep in mind, this is a privilege the scout has earned. The scout is required to use the knife safely. Knives start around \$20. <i>Note 1: If it is deemed to be not used safely it will be taken away.</i> <i>Note 2: knife blades can be no longer than the width of the scout's palm</i>
	Flashlight/headlamp and spare batteries.
	Compass. Nothing fancy. Needed for backcountry navigation. This style costs about \$5.
	Sun Screen- the paste kind, not the spray kind. The spray kind tends to fill packs with sun screen and ruin other gear.
	Paracord – strong, light rope. Hiking essential. Takes up no room in a pack and is always handy to have around. Home Depot has 50' lengths for around \$3 with lots of colors to choose from. Bright colors are good so you can see them in the dark.
	Fire Source – Lighter, Matches, Ferro Rod striker. Part of the essentials for hiking and outdoor activities.
	Water bottle/canteen. To stay hydrated on hikes or around camp. Walmart sells them starting around \$8. But re-using a plastic 20-32oz water or Gatorade bottle costs nothing. <i>Tip: If he brings a re-used bottle, make sure he knows not to throw it out <b>and</b> put his name on it so no one else does.</i>

**Good to Have**

	Class B uniform, any scout related shirt, but the preferred has the Troop 51 logo. We have an online store to purchase these.
	A watch. Most scout events have a schedule to them. Knowing the time is important. A basic, weather proof watch is all that is needed.

	<p>A duffel bag. It keeps all of his gear together. These are great for sleeping bags, pillows, jackets, day packs, etc. Packed right these can carry everything they need for a camping trip. Walmart has them for about \$20. <i>Tip: Line with a large garbage bag to keep contents dry.</i></p>
	<p>Pillows make a night sleep better. A small pillow is better than the big one he uses at home. <i>TIP: An old pillow case stuffed with a sweatshirt/spare cloths/towel and folded over works as a pillow.</i></p>
	<p>Hat-sun protection</p>
	<p>Bungee Cord. Good for holding gear together. 12-18 inch size is good. A couple is better.</p>
	<p>Bandana. Can be used for a multitude of things in the back country (Hat, towel, flag, etc.) and costs about a \$1.</p>
	<p>Bug Repellent Spray – Tick and Mosquitos are a serious problem. Prevention is always a good idea.</p>
<p><b><u>Nice to Have</u></b></p>	
	<p>A canvas nail apron from Loews or Home Depot. Great for summer camp or when sleeping on a cot. These can be tied to the side of a cot so they can keep their flashlights, knives, glasses or other small but important stuff close at hand and easy to find in a dark tent. Cost about \$1</p>
	<p>Insulated Mug. Good for hot beverages in the morning. These can be found for \$5 or look around, businesses hand these out for free all the time. <i>Tip: Can double as a soup bowl.</i></p>
	<p>Camp chair to sit around the fire. Walmart has these for under \$20.</p>
	<p>Playing Cards – These are great to have when weather turns rainy to beat potential boredom. Takes up no room in a pack. <i>Tip: The plastic water proof ones last longer.</i></p>

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