

Troop and Patrol Gear—Checklist

Be aware of the recommended Group Camping Gear Checklist (found in the *Boy Scout Handbook*) and the many sources where items can be purchased, borrowed, or “inherited.”

Before purchasing a new piece of equipment, be sure that:

- It fills a definite need.
- It enhances the troop’s program.
- There is space to store it.
- It is in good condition and safe.
- There are no hidden costs.
- You can afford it.

Troop Overnight Camping Gear

- Tents with poles, stakes, ground cloths, and lines
- Dining fly
- Nylon cord, 50 feet
- Backpacking stoves and fuel
- Group first-aid kit
- Cook kit
- Pots and pans
- Spatula, large spoon, and/or ladle (depending on menus)
- Plastic sheets, two 4-by-4 foot
- Matches and/or butane lighter in waterproof containers
- Cleanup kit

- Sponge or dishcloth
- Biodegradable soap
- Sanitizing rinse agent (bleach)
- Scouring pads (no-soap type)
- Plastic trash bags
- Toilet paper in plastic bag
- Repair kit
- Thread and needles
- Safety pins
- Optional troop extras: _____

- Hot-pot tongs
- Camp shovel
- Water container—one 1-gallon or two ½-gallon collapsible, plastic
- Washbasin
- Grill
- Pot rods
- Patrol flag
- Small U.S. flag
- Ax
- Camp saw
- Lanterns and fuel

Storing and Caring for Troop Equipment—Checklist

Follow commonsense guidelines:

- Write, stencil, or engrave identifying information on equipment.
- Store equipment in a locked space that is temperature and dampness controlled.
- Have the troop quartermaster work with a member of the troop committee to organize the gear and set up an efficient check-out and check-in system.
- Check the condition of each item after use, and arrange for any cleaning or repair.
- Maintain a list of the gear on hand.

Tents and Tarps

- Two-person tents are ideal for most patrol and troop camping because they can be carried in backpacks, and their use fosters the buddy system.
- Use a tarp or dining fly to fend off the weather or to protect gear stored underneath.

Trailers

Keep these ideas in mind regarding trailers:

- Be aware of its towing requirements when purchasing a trailer.
- Unload the trailer completely after each outing to ensure that everything gets packed on the next outing.
- Don't be a slave to your trailer; some campsites can only be accessed on foot.
- Protect your trailer by buying and using a wheel lock.
- Add padlocks to all the doors.
- Park your trailer in a highly visible location in such a way that it can't be easily moved.