

Winter Camporee Gear

Thoughts from Mr. B

With our weather it's a bit hard to have the "perfect winter gear list". Food for thought about winter camping.

1) Dress in layers and avoid cotton so you can adjust to temperature changes .. the goal is not to heat up, sweat and then get cold (not always easy).

2) Make sure you have a warm enough sleeping bag to be comfortable at night (this can include a blanket and sleeping in sweats and dry socks - so don't feel like you need to spend a lot of money on a sleeping bag) - I'd recommend a sleeping bag rated for 20 degrees. I wouldn't go any lower than 10 degrees as it will be too warm for camping at other times during the year - always easier to sleep with some dry clothes on.

3) Make sure to have clean dry socks and possibly sweats to sleep in.

For me keeping my feet warm is critical so I always recommend a warm pair of boots. Now most of the boys are still growing so purchasing an expensive pair of boots may not be worth it, but there are many good sales still going on and you should be able to find a decent pair say at Dicks (I actually purchased boots for my sons at Sears last year.)

Following is a "down to earth" list for you to use.

SIMPLE EQUIPMENT LIST FOR YOUR FIRST WINTER TENT CAMPOUT

___ **BACKPACK** (and/or large Sports Equipment Bag, and/or Duffel Bag). Line it with a Lawn Bag first, to keep contents dry.

___ **WARM JACKET & SCARF.**

___ **SNOW PANTS** (available at thrift stores for \$3-\$5).

___ **2 EXTRA PAIRS OF PANTS**

___ **2 WOOL SWEATERS, or POLAR FLEECE SWEATSHIRTS** (about \$3 at Thrift Stores).

___ **2 LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS** (Wool or synthetic fiber for good insulating quality & quick drying - \$3 at thrift stores).

___ **2 SETS of LONG UNDERWEAR** (if buying new, look for 100% synthetic fabric, NOT "waffle pattern" cotton blend).

___ **2 extra sets of UNDERWEAR**

___ **2 extra pair HEAVY NON-COTTON HIKING SOCKS & Liners** (Make sure your boots are NOT TIGHT!).

___ **STURDY, INSULATED WINTER BOOTS** (Rubber is much better than leather. Leather will freeze at night).

___ **PLASTIC BAGS** (newspaper or bread wrappers, or plastic grocery bags to go under socks in case of wet leather boots).

___ **WINTER GLOVES or MITTENS** (As many as you own and can borrow!)

___ **2 WARM HATS** (One for Sleeping ONLY-Sleeping hat should be designed to stay on at night).

___ **WINTER SLEEPING BAG** (or 2 regular Sleeping Bags stuffed one inside the other; or a regular Bag AND 2-3 Blankets)

___ **ADDITIONAL SWEAT PANTS & SWEAT SHIRT** (for sleeping only! Change ALL of your clothes, including your long underwear, inside your sleeping bag when you go to bed).

___ **TWO (2) CLOSED-CELL FOAM SLEEPING PADS** (or about 2-3" of newspapers under your sleeping bag).

___ **POCKETKNIFE** (SMALL Swiss Army Knife on neck chain, \$13. Never buy a knife made in China!)

___ **MESS-KIT (BOWL, CUP, FORK, SPOON, PLATE** -- heavy-duty plastic is warmer than metal).

___ **FLASHLIGHT & EXTRA BATTERIES.**

___ **SMALL FIRST AID KIT** (You can make your own: BSA Handbook, Page 289).

___ **PEN, PENCIL, SMALL NOTEBOOK, BSA HANDBOOK** (No, you can't borrow ours).

___ **COMPASS with a BASEPLATE**, in a Zip-Lock bag (with map, if you have one).

___ **CLEAN-UP KIT** (Small Hand Soap, Small Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Comb, Floss, Fast-Drying Camp Towel).

___ **TOILET PAPER** (Half a roll in a Zip-Lock bag).

___ **SLIPPERS** or **MOCCASINS** (To wear inside cabin)