

Backpacking

This course is intended for anyone who wants an introduction to backpacking or who wants to improve their backpacking trips. It is good preparation or for an upcoming backpacking trip.

Bring the Backpacking Merit Badge pamphlet that you read, a merit badge worksheet, and a scoutmaster signed merit badge card. Bring a backpack filled with gear for a 3 day/2-night backpacking trip of at least 15 miles. A list of suggested items for such a trip is below. If you don't have all the gear or can't borrow some, that's OK, we won't need it all anyway. Try to have your backpack weighing about 25 to 35 pounds, or about 25% of your body weight. Bring ingredients for a cooked lunch for 2 people.

The course is limited to 8 participants.

The course will go over some backpacking requirements in the morning, then hike a mile with a loaded backpack, and cook our own lunch using a backpacking stove and liquid fuel. After lunch we will clean our cooking gear and hike back. We will work more requirements in the afternoon. We should be able to complete all requirements except 8c, 10, and 11.

Bring with List

- The Outdoor Essentials
 1. Pocketknife
 2. Personal First-Aid Kit
 3. Extra Clothing
 4. Rain Gear
 5. Water Bottle, filled
 6. Flashlight
 7. Trail Food
 8. Matches and Fire Starters
 9. Sun and Insect Protection
 10. Map and Compass

- Clothes (adjust this list for the weather and season)
 1. T-shirt
 2. Long-sleeved shirt
 3. Underwear
 4. Hiking shorts
 5. Long pants
 6. Socks (synthetic blend or wool)
 7. Hiking shoes or boots (well-fitting and broken in)
 8. Sweater or jacket
 9. Brimmed hat, stocking hat
 10. Gloves
 11. Bandanna
 12. Rain gear

- Personal Gear
 1. Backpack with rain cover and hiking poles
 2. Sleeping bag and pad
 3. Eating gear (mess kit)
 4. Personal toiletry kit (Kleenex, TP, toothbrush, wash cloth, etc.)
 5. Misc.: Medications, insect repellent, bug net, paper & pencil, whistle, optional: camera, binoculars, etc.

- Group Gear (this gear is shared between several participants)
 1. Water purification system, collapsible water jug
 2. Cooking stove, fuel
 3. Cooking kit (pots, pans, utensils, & cleaning gear, sponge)
 4. Food and recipes (if needed)
 5. Shelter, tarp, tent, ground cloth, hammock
 6. Misc.: Group first-aid kit, hand sanitizer, rope, bear bag, backpacking trowel, etc.