

Troop 157 Tips #4, Tents



I got a tent, Want to See it? Sure do!

Tents come in all sizes and shapes. Our troop believes in purchasing a tent that can be used for backpacking. That means a tent that weighs about 5 lbs. or less. But less weight means more expensive in most cases.

We believe in a full rain fly and lots of mesh. That is normally called a 3 season tent. Full rain fly provides a little more protection and usually has a vestibule where you can store your muddy boots out of the weather and your tent.

We believe in a two man tent. That really means it will fit you and your gear. A three man tent will hold two scouts and gear but becomes heavier.

Tents range in cost. So it depends where you shop. It depends on the brand you're looking at. It depends on the weight of the tent. It depends on the material it is built out of. It **DEPENDS**.

Can adults sleep with scouts. Yes and no. If in a family yes, but not encouraged. We want scouts to gain confidence and independence away from mom and dad.

Can adults camp next to their scout. Yes and no. We usually have an adult camping area. Again, to give the scouts a sense of independence, that we're not looking over their shoulder every minute.

Can I bring my big tent that we used in Cubs to our camp. Depends. How will you transport it to the camp site. If we're using the trailer, then it's easy to get it there. But will your scout be able to set it up. Normally the big family style tents are so tall, that new scouts don't have the ability to manage all the moving pieces and parts.

Every tent needs a ground cloth. Some come with one. Some don't (need to buy extra or make one out of plastic).

Price really varies. Keep an eye on web sites. Name brand tents (REI, Coleman, etc. have limited warranties. LL Bean has a life time warranty.) Need to do your homework when searching for tents. An expensive tent **DOESN'T** mean better.

Bottom line. Come camping with us before you go out and buy a tent. Ask a leader before purchasing a tent. Might save you some money.



OK, But what are you talking about?



These tents have a full rain fly. Lots of mesh underneath

Marmot Catalyst 2. Full fly. 2 man tent. approx. \$150. ground cloth included in price. Lots of mesh. Aluminum poles (good, lighter and stronger). Approx. 5lbs. On Campmor.com



Eureka, 2 man tent, approx. \$143. Campmor.com. 5 1/2 lbs. Full fly. No ground cloth. Aluminum poles.



Both these tents are shown without their full rain fly. You can see the mesh.

Eureka Spitfire, 2 man tent (tight due to shape), 4lbs, aluminum poles, no ground cloth. \$180



Kelty Arcadia 2. 7lbs, aluminum poles, no ground cloth, \$130.

A ground cloth is important. Protects the bottom of the tent from sticks, stickers, pine cones, etc. It also keeps moisture from coming out of the ground and into your tent (you'd be surprised how much there is in the 'dry' soil!) You can purchase a ground cloth from the same tent manufacturer (may be pricey), you can make a ground cloth out of heavy painters plastic drop cloths, or even a product call Tyvek (builders wrap). Should be cut to floor size and NOT stick out from under the tent. Some scouts buy a blue tarp from a builders supply and place their tent on top of it. That's ok, but its big and heavy, not good for back packing.

Here's a link by REI on tent selection. <https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/backpacking-tent.html>