

Troop 157 Tips #5, Packing



What to take to camp! HINT: Use your Scout book to guide you. BUT what do I pack it in?

Great question. You could buy a backpack, you could use some sort of duffel bag, or you could even use some type of footlocker (for summer camp)..but it really depends on the type camping you do.

Backpacks are great. The reality, as your Scout grows the backpack should also. When they first join there's a rush to go out and buy a backpack, but WHOA Nelly. Stop. You don't need it...yet. Prices vary, styles vary, and cost really varies. This is something you should research and ask questions about.



One very useful thing is a small day backpack. Something you can carry a water bladder in, something to carry your rope, compass (10 essentials) and scout book in. Cost varies. Don't need an expensive \$140 day pack. Keep it simple. It will get dirty, it will lay outside his tent, he will forget it several places. But a great thing to have. Did I say put your "name" on EVERYTHING.

When we went to National Jamboree, Gulf Coast Council purchased an Osprey duffel for us to have, little pricey, but nice, Osprey has a Life time guarantee. We were gone for 16 days and everything we needed could be jammed in here. Sleeping bag, sleeping pad, clothes, and misc stuff. Everything just stays in here. Downside, little difficult to find stuff, so you usually pull it out and lay it all over your tent until you need to repack. These usually have some type of carry system, either handles and shoulder straps. Vary in price. I have used a cheap, military B4 bag (or parachute bag) in the past, works great. Can be bought here in town at the army surplus store or BX.



SUMMER CAMP

This is the big camp of the year. Normally a week long, and obviously in the summer. One of the key event's in your son's Scouting career. Hopefully he can attend these.



Summer camp will normally provide you with a place to sleep (big wall tent or some kind of shelter). They will also provide you with a bed, cot or built in bunk beds if in a cabin. They even feed you all your meals. You bring money for snacks and MB materials. So, all you really need is to bring your personal stuff, sleeping gear, and Scout uniform.

Here's some rules. Start packing early. I'm talking a week out. Gathering all your stuff, laying it out.

- Recommend using the checklists in the Scout book
- Read the camp guide and add those things they suggest I bring
- Talk to other scouts and figure out what they're bringing
- Read all the summer camp hints provided by the troop
- Don't bring anything that is already in our trailer — No need to duplicate.
- Two days before, I do a reality check and half the stuff I have laid out, I put back in the drawers and closets! HA!
- REMEMBER, you don't need a lot of stuff. You're not going to use it. Mom, we can wash clothes while there.
- There are some tricks that you gain from experience.
 - ⇒ fan that uses D cell batteries.
 - ⇒ Hanger to hang uniform shirt on
 - ⇒ Everything is separate bags—all underwear in gallon zip lock, all socks in gallon zip lock, etc.



What do you pack all this stuff in. Most guys use a Kmart or Walmart plastic trunk/footlocker that you can put a combo lock on. A **COMBO LOCK**, don't bring a lock that uses keys (You will lose it!). Walmart \$19. Don't go overboard, bigger is NOT better. a Standard 16 gallon trunk is perfect. These trunks need to fit under the cot or at the foot or head of the cot. Most will use these as a table through out the week and play cards on them or put their fan on them. Borrow them from past scouts not going to camp, I have one you can use. There's even one in our church garage area someone can buy.



Remember, the previous page. Osprey duffle bag we used for Jamboree. Worked great! Can reuse for other things. Easy to push under your cot.

For everyday weekend camping, I use my backpack. Everything stays in there, the only things I take in and out are my clothes (packed in zip lock bag or dry bag). I only have to repack it every few campouts to reorganize my stuff and air out my sleeping bag.