

Dear Scouts and Scouters:

Welcome To Troop 43

Since every new Scout comes home with a list of “necessary” equipment and demands that Mom and Dad get them NOW!, we’ve compiled this overview to preclude any purchasing frenzies and to answer any questions. Included are BSA gear requirements and personal camping equipment suggestions and, more importantly... where to find them. Please note: Not all the gear on this list is required, nor should it be considered complete.

BSA REQUIREMENTS

The Boy Scout Handbook:

A Scout’s first and most important purchase is the current edition of the Boy Scout Handbook. Buy a Handbook A.S.A.P.!!! It’s the best way to learn about Scouting and to keep track of advancement. **MAKE SURE THE SCOUT’S NAME GOES IN IT IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT PLACES!**

Uniform Requirements:

- BSA long/short sleeve shirt
- BSA long/short pants
- BSA web belt
- BSA wool/cotton socks, knee socks when wearing shorts
- Troop 43 neckerchief
- Neckerchief slide (preferably handmade)
- BSA merit badge sash (req’d after earning 6 merit badges)

First year Scouts will be expected to purchase a shirt within 30 days, and full uniform within 90 days or by September 15th, depending upon when he joined the troop. Full uniform is required at all troop meetings and official Scout functions. When appropriate and announced, troop outings will have relaxed requirements.

Uniform Insignia Requirements:

- Troop numerals - 43
- Theodore Roosevelt Council shoulder patch
- American flag
- World Crest
- Red Epaulets

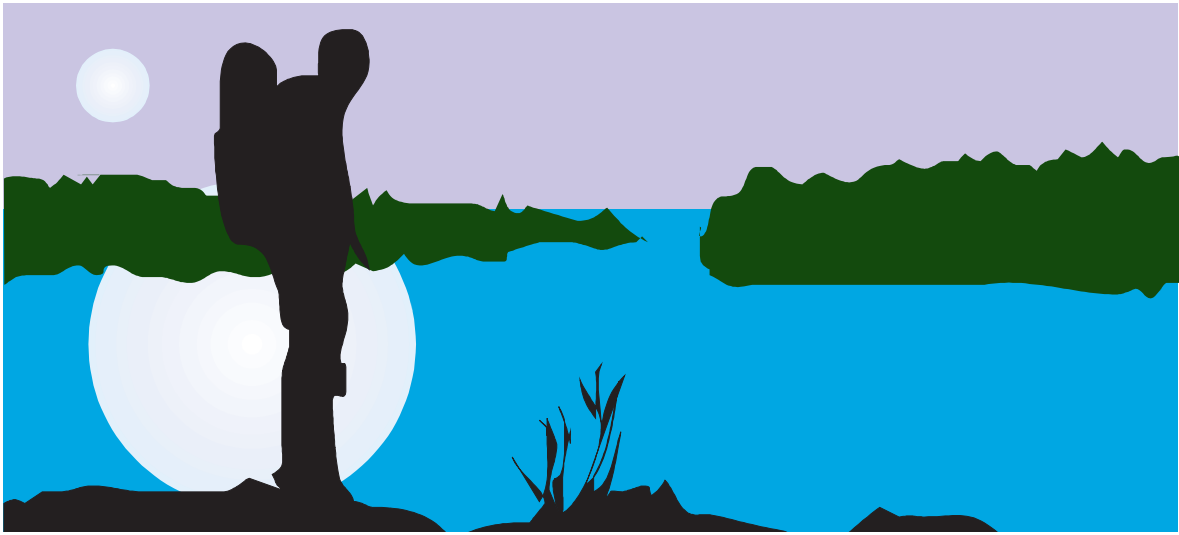
Check the inside front and back covers of the BSA Handbook for insignia placement instructions. Cost for awards, rank advancements and merit badges has been included in the troop registration fee.

Where to Buy:

Theodore Roosevelt Council, BSA
544 Broadway,
Massapequa ~ 797-7600

BSA Catalog
VISA, MasterCard, AmEx
1-800-323-0732





EQUIPMENT SUGGESTIONS

Daypack \$20-30

Many Scouts have a daypack that's used as a book bag for school. If you don't already have one, any of the number of nylon or cordura bags on the market will do. Day packs are used on day trips to carry the essentials - lunch, sweater, rain gear, etc.

Backpack \$50-125

A backpack is a major purchase; borrow before you buy; make sure the commitment to Scouting is there. When purchasing a backpack, buy an adjustable, external frame pack with padded shoulder straps, a padded quick-release hip belt, and zippered side pockets. Adjust-ability lets the pack grow with you, an external frame provides the best balanced pack for most of our trips. The padded shoulder straps and hip belt provide comfort and proper load distribution for the body, and small side pockets offer convenient storage for ready access items.

A pack must fit and feel comfortable. Ask the salesman to load the pack with 20 pounds of equipment. Try the pack on and walk around the store with it on your back. Knowledgeable salesmen will fully adjust the pack to fit.

Kelty 'Yukon' or 'Junior Tioga'
Camp Trails 'Adjustable II', med. or lg.
Coleman 'Peak 1'
Jansport 'Scout'

Any other top loading pack with between 2000-3500 cu. in. and the features listed above would also be acceptable.

Lash Straps \$3/pr

Nylon lash straps are the best way to lash a tent, sleeping bag or pad to a pack. Buy two pair with plastic buckles. Bungee cords are less adjustable and highly unstable, and are not recommended.

Sleeping Bag \$100-225

Sleeping bags vary by temperature rating, fill materials, and construction. Temperature ratings extend from the 60 degree rated cotton 'Spiderman' bags used for sleepovers to -40 degree rated down bags used on Arctic expeditions. For our purposes a -5C - 10C rated - 3 season polyester bag is best. Only those with sufficient experience should even contemplate down!

Sleeping Bag (cont'd)

Polyester fill, whether Calanese's Polarguard, Dupont's Hollofil or Dupont's Quallofil, will provide good loft (loft = insulating power), moderate weight, and good heat retention when wet. Down fill provides the best loft per pound and therefore is lighter in comparison to the same temperature rated synthetic bag, but is useless when wet and very costly. For those that are interested, down is graded by a volume/ounce number called fill power. A good fill power is 550, 600, 700 is better, 800 the highest grade. Look for bag with 2-way zipper with a baffle tube covering it. Beware of sewn through construction - it creates cold spots. Mummy bags with draw string hoods are warmer than rectangular bags and cost more too. Be sure your bag comes with a waterproof stuff sack!

P.S. For bargain prices on gear, look in mail order catalogs such as:
Gander Mountain - 1-800-558-9410 ~ www.gandermountain.com
REI - 1-800-426-4840 ~ www.rei.com
SIERRA Trading Post - 1-800-713-4534
Campmor - 1-800-230-2151 ~ www.campmor.com
LL Bean - 1-800-221-4221 ~ www.llbean.com
Cabela's - 1-800-237-4444 ~ www.cabelas.com



Sleeping Pad \$10-50

Insulation first, comfort next. Open cell foam pads are hydrophilic (get wet) and compressible (have poor insulating properties), therefore not recommended. Air mattresses lose too much heat through convection with the ground and, though comfortable, are also not recommended. Closed cell foam pads are the standard. They don't retain water, lose little body heat through convection and roll tight for easy carrying. Ensolite (blue) can be bought in 3/8" or 1/2" thickness. Ridgerest is ridged as the name implies, black - less effected by UV light, lighter and a tad more expensive (a Z Rest folds rather than rolls). Either are excellent. The Mercedes of sleeping pads is the auto-inflatable Therm-a-Rest now available with a skid resistant underside. Though open celled, the Therm-a-Rest combines the best attributes of closed cell pads, moisture resistance and heat retention, with th comfort of an air mattress.

Ensolite (blue)
Ridgerest (black/silver) or Z-Rest
Therm-a-Rest

Canteen Varies

Take a look at your pack. You want a bottle that is the right size, and the right shape. Buy a plastic 1 liter or 1½ liter bottle with a screw on cap. Be sure it wont spill or leak. Stay away from the metal styles of yesteryear and the bottles with the pull-up tops.

Knife \$10-20

Forget the 50 gazillion gadget knives, a simple two bladed version will do. Swiss Army seems to the standard. Nothing bigger than the 'Spartan' is recommended. Sports Authority has a nice selection to choose from. No sheath knives!

Flashlight \$3-10

Monster searchlights are heavy and bulky. Maglites are small and light but expensive, though nearly indestructible. A \$1.49 light will do just fine. Those that use AA sized batteries are preferred; they're lighter than D batteries and standardizing battery size to AA within the Troop makes swapping spares easier. Headlamps double the price but free your hands!

Poncho \$25

Don't go cheap here. If you buy a vinyl (orange) poncho it'll be replaced after every outing - they rip easily. Two-piece coated nylon rain suits (pants and, jacket or anorak) double the price. Avoid costly Gore-Tex garments, which are better suited for winter conditions, until it's warranted.

Cook Kit Varies

A bowl, a cup, a spoon, fork and knife. A large insulated cup will be necessary for future backpacking and winter trips!

Compass \$7

Buy a lightweight compass with a clear rectangular base for taking accurate bearings. Silva is the maker of the official BSA compass but Finnish counterpart Suunto gives better features for the same price in the fight for market share.

Boots \$75-150

A good pair of boots is a Scouts best friend. Don't buy boots to last years; you don't grow into boots at the expense of blisters and sore feet. Ankle-high leather work boots work in a pinch but, when buying hiking boots, choose the new lightweight designs, which, though not waterproof are fast drying and lighter. Leather mountaineering boots are heavy and too expensive for young feet. Boots should have thick soles with good no-slip grips and should be well broken in before their first field trial. Sneakers should only be brought on camping trips as 'camp shoes' because they offer no ankle support for rocky terrain. On winter trips a waterproof boot that can fit 2 pairs of wool socks will be necessary

EMS 'Summit' - Mountaineer - Trail Boots
Vasque 'Kid's Klimber' or 'Alpha'

Socks

Polypropylene (or silk) undersocks and wool oversocks are standard. Polypropylene wicks moisture away from the skin while wool provides warmth even when wet.
No cotton socks!

**Any questions about gear call
Bryan Thompson: 679-4399**

Where to Buy:

Eastern Mountain Sports
Glen Cove Rd
Carle Place
747-7360

Dicks Sporting Goods
Roosevelt Field
Garden City

Tent City
Franklin Av
Hempstead

Sports Authority
Old Country Rd.
Westbury

Campmor
Route 17
Paramus, NJ
1-800-525-4741(catalog)



Troop 43 Checklist

Summer Camping

1st Layer

- 2/3 pr. underwear
- 2 pr sweat socks
- 2 pr. sockliners
- 1 pr. wool socks
- tank top

2nd Layer

- tee shirt
- light weight long pants
- shorts
- belt

Footgear

- waterproof hiking boots
- moccasins or camp shoes
- waterproof gaiters

Outerwear

- rain shell - tops & bottoms
- windbreaker
- fleece pullover / vest

Head Gear

- baseball cap
- sun visor
- bandanna
- hat w/ mosquito netting

Sleeping Gear

- sleeping bag 20o minimum
- sleeping pad
- waterproof stuff sacks for both
- repair kit/needle & thread for bag

Packs

- backpack - internal frame or
- backpack - external frame
- day pack
- fanny or waist pack w/water bottles
- pack cover
- repair kit/spare parts for pack

Cooking Gear

- pack stove w/ spare fuel bottle
- repair kit/spare parts for stove
- 1 mess kit w/cup
- fork/knife/spoon
- 2 plastic 1 1/2 quart water bottles
- spices
- cooking utensils
- biodegradable dish detergent

Toiletries

- toothbrush & toothpaste
- sm. bar of biodegradable soap
- 1 face cloth
- 1 hand towel
- 1 roll toilet paper

Seasonal Gear

- bathing suit
- beach towel

General Gear

- map of area & compass
- notebook or pad of paper w/ pencil
- paperback
- deck of cards
- flashlight w/ spare batteries
- pocket knife
- matches in waterproof container
- spare garbage bags
- personal first aid kit
- camera w/ extra film
- sunglasses
- sunblock
- lip balm
- sm. pocket saw
- Leatherman, Buck or S.O.G. Tool
- whistle
- sm. whisk broom
- mountain axe
- roll paper towels
- insect repellent
- duct tape

Please Note: Not all the gear on this list is required, nor should it be considered complete. Try to avoid all cotton items of clothing. Cotton gets wet easily, stays wet, weighs you down and rapidly draws heat away from your body, even in the summertime.

TROOP 43 Checklist

Winter Camping

1st Layer

- 2/3 pr. underwear
- 2/3 pr. wool socks
- 2 pr. sockliners
- polypropylene or thermal top
- polypropylene or thermal bottom
- turtleneck

2nd Layer

- Fleece shirt
- Fleece pullover
- Fleece pants
- Fleece or down vest
- pants - wool

Outerwear

- rain shell - tops & bottoms
- wool sweater
- winter parka (down w/Gore-Tex)
- snow or ski pants
- fleece or wool gloves or mittens
- insulated & waterproof hiking boots
- waterproof gaiters

Head Gear

- fleece or wool knit cap
- fleece or wool scarf or neck gaiter
- balaclava

Sleeping Gear

- sleeping bag 0°C to -5°C minimum
- sleeping pad
- waterproof stuff sacks for both
- ski mask
- repair kit/needle & thread for bag

Packs

- backpack - internal frame or
- backpack - external frame
- day pack
- fanny or waist pack w/water bottles
- pack cover
- repair kit/needle & thread for pack

Cooking gear

- pack stove w/ spare fuel bottle
- repair kit/spare parts for stove
- 1 mess kit w/cup
- fork/knife/spoon
- 2 plastic 1 1/2 quart water bottles
- cooking utensils
- dish detergent

Toiletries

- toothbrush & toothpaste
- sm. bar of biodegradable soap
- 1 face cloth
- 1 hand towel
- 1 roll toilet paper

General Gear

- map of area & compass
- notebook or pad of paper w/ pencil
- paperback
- deck of cards
- flashlight w/ spare batteries
- pocket knife
- matches in waterproof container
- spare garbage bags
- personal first aid kit
- camera w/ extra film
- sunglasses
- sunblock
- lip balm
- sm. pocket saw
- Leatherman, Buck or S.O.G. Tool
- crampons
- snowshoes
- mountain axe
- ice axe
- roll paper towels
- ski goggles
- ski/trekking poles
- whistle - plastic
- tent - 4 season w/ground to ground fly
- w/vestibule
- sm whisk broom
- whistle
- duct tape

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