

## **Pack 55 – Recommended Camping Equipment**

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The following items are recommended for Tigers and Cub Scout car camping. Just get enough to get through the first campout and then you will see what everyone else is using.

### **Tents**

Always add at least one or two persons to the size of tent you need. You always need more room. Dome tents are best with a rain-fly (top cover that goes over the poles) that goes as close to the ground as possible. You can get a small bottle of seam sealer at Academy to be sure of minimal leaks. Get a tent with a waterproof floor and then use a plastic ground cloth under that but not protruding from under the tent. A vestibule for storing shoes outside the tent is good. REI on I-10 has the best tents. Academy and discount store tents are OK since you will surely buy another one in two years anyway as the older boys want to sleep away from the family. Buy a few extra stakes when you get the tent. Be sure to set up your new tent before you go camping.

### **Sleeping**

For the first trip any sleeping bag will do and you can always bring blankets. If buying a sleeping bag, get one good to 20 degrees or below with synthetic filling. Cotton is heavy and hard to dry out. If cold, always use a warm hat. Ear plugs that stop sound are also good. Bring a pillow. If you don't have any kind of pad, buy a Thermarest at Academy, about \$30. Air mattresses are not real comfy unless they are the heavy duty type.

### **Clothing**

Dress in layers as the temperature varies a lot during the day. No cotton clothes. Tennis shoes are OK but waterproof hiking boots are better in the rain. Use a rain suit with pants that will keep feet dry. No ponchos-dangerous around fires. Umbrellas can be handy. Bring twice as much footwear as you think you will need—there's always water around. Boys wear their uniforms to the Sunday service. A small backpack with a bottle of water or canteen is good to have.

### **Miscellaneous**

Fishing tackle is fun but bend down the barbs on hooks, as are footballs and soccer. Bring plenty of flashlights, headlights for boys and batteries. Folding chairs are needed around the campfire. Bring toilet paper and toiletries and towels. We always have toilets and usually minimal showers.

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### **For the Den**

Cooking—you will need at least two or three propane stove burners and two cans for each burner. No liquid fuel or charcoal lighter unless solid. Buy a charcoal lighter (round can) and bring newspaper—they work great. Bring lots of pots and pans and two coffee pots plus one for hot chocolate. Three plastic pans for soapy water, bleach water and rinse for wash-up. Each person brings plates and utensils—no paper or plastic as Scouts are thrifty! Self-supporting grills are good for cooking over a fire but makes a mess on pans. Bring cameras, firewood, first aid kit. A good tarpaulin that you can cook under in the rain or use for shade is needed for each den. Lots of ice and drinking water as the well water at the campsites is usually not too tasty although it is safe. Every den needs at least one Coleman propane lantern.

### **Websites**

The following sites offer gear that you can order on-line:

[rei.com](http://rei.com)

[campmor.com](http://campmor.com)

[sierra-trading.com](http://sierra-trading.com)