



Western Backpacking Equipment List

The following is a list of all clothing and personal equipment needed to have a comfortable wilderness experience. It is designed to help you prepare and give you an idea of how each piece of gear will be used. Because weather is unpredictable, there is no guarantee that all of the equipment will be used.

This list is meant to be followed closely. Bringing less may lead to cold challenges and bringing more will result in heavier packs.

New for 2017 - Garage Grown Gear (www.garagegrowngear.com), a company with a strong Manito-wish connection has extended 20% off to all our families! Use the code "Manito-wishYMCA" at checkout

If you have any questions, or if you would like any more information regarding any of the items on the list, please contact:

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Footwear			
Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Boots	1	Sturdy leather/synthetic heavy backpacking or light mountaineering boots with great ankle support. See boot information at end of list for more information	
Socks	4	Wool or polypropylene (no wool/cotton blends) Go with what works for you.	
Liner socks	1-2-Optional	Synthetic/wool – personal preference. Liner socks are great in cold environments and for reducing rubbing and blisters.	
Gaiters	1	Must be knee high and durable. Look for double closures (both zippers and snaps) or 2" Velcro. Outdoor Research, Black Diamond and Mountain Hardwear are good brands.	
Campsite shoes	1	Cross Trainers, tennis or running shoes in good condition for around camp and short day hikes These shoes may be needed to hike in the event your boots are damaged or lost.	
Extra Shoes	1-Optional	An additional pair of lightweight footwear (ie Crocs) is allowed in order to dry out feet at the campsite or use for swimming, For more clarification see our footwear policy located at end of list.	

Upper Body Clothing			
Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Light to mid-weight long underwear top	1-2	Synthetic or merino wool base layer top. (Examples; Patagonia Capilene/Wool, Icebreaker 220-260, Mountain Hardwear)	
Thin fleece or heavy long underwear	1	Any secondary fleece layer of 100-200 weight. Expedition-weight long underwear works as well.	
Fleece jacket/ down/synthetic puffy jacket	1	Should fit over other layers. Patagonia Down Sweater or Nano Air and Mountain Hardwear Compressor are two examples of puffy jackets. Older fleece tends to lose its loft.	
Rain jacket	1	We recommend "rain proof" not "rain resistant". Multi-layer rain proof is best. Durable and heavy duty water-proofing is highly recommended. Should fit over all layers.	
Lightweight synthetic top	2	One for in-camp and one for hiking. Long sleeves and a collar provide bug and sun protection	
Bug Shirt	1- Optional	Look at The Original Bug Shirt	

Lower Body Clothing			
Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Light to midweight bottoms	1	Synthetic or merino wool base layer. (Examples; Patagonia Capilene/Wool, Icebreaker, Under Armor Mountain Hardwear)	
Fleece pants	1		
Rain pants	1	Water proof and durable. Vinyl/rubberized not great	
Lightweight tripping pants	1	Zip-off quick dry pants have worked well as bug and sun protection. For hiking and around camp	
Nylon shorts	1	Athletic shorts are fine. They will be used for hiking and around camp.	
Underwear	2-3 pair	Personal preference. For women, sports bras made out of a moisture wicking material are recommended. Synthetic is recommended for its drying capabilities. However, if you are prone to Urinary Tract Infections, cotton underwear is a better choice	

Hands and Head			
Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Wool/fleece hat	1	Anything that will cover your ears	
Baseball cap or hat with brim	1	Sun protection is the primary use	
Fleece gloves	1	Basic lightweight synthetic gloves	
Bandanas	2-3	Any old bandana will do. Required for all women's trips. Great for using with DEET bug spray so it does not de-waterproof your gear.	
Head net	1- optional	Not necessary if you have a bug shirt	

Sleeping Equipment

Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Sleeping bag	1	We recommend synthetic or down bags rated to 15-20°F. The possibility for multiple days of rain could make it impossible to keep a down bag dry.	
Sleeping bag liner	1 – Optional	Sleeping bag liners help protect bag and increase warmth by a couple degrees.	
Sleeping pad	1	Either: 1) Inflatable pads such as Thermarest, Exped and Big Agnes. Lighter, warmer and more expensive. We recommend bringing a patch kit (generally included with pad) Closed-cell foam and 3/8” thick. More durable and cheaper	
Sleeping bag compression stuff sack	1	This depends on the type of pack, type of sleeping bag and how you want to pack your pack. Sea-to-Summit eVent compression dry bags work great	

Backpack

Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Backpack	1 - optional	We use Osprey internal frame packs. You can borrow a pack from Camp for your trip. If you bring a pack, it will be examined by your trip leaders to determine its suitability for your trip. It must have a volume of at least 5500-6500 cubic inches or 85 liters. Making sure your pack fits well is important.	Can borrow at Camp
Small dry bags or stuff sacks	1-2	For organizing items in your pack. Dry bags are recommended to keep your stuff dry!	
Waterproof pack cover	1 - optional	You can usually find a pack cover that is made for your pack. This or a plastic trash compactor bag for lining your pack work well.	Can borrow at Camp

Miscellaneous Personal Gear

Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Sunglasses	1 pair	Any good quality sunglasses with 100% UV protection will work. If you wear prescription glasses and have impaired vision without them, bring prescription sunglasses or high quality clip-ons.	
Sunscreen	16 oz	Two tubes or bottles of 8oz. Make sure it is at least SPF 30 or greater. If you burn easily, bring zinc oxide.	
Lip balm	1	Stick or cream. Make sure it provides sun protection	
Insect repellent	Optional	Small bottle. Non-aerosol. DEET de-waterproofs your gear, if you plan to bring DEET spray, have extra bandanas to spray it onto instead of your gear. Bug lotion is a good alternative to bug spray.	
Headlamp	1	Petzl, Black Diamond and Princeton Tec all make good ones	
Trekking poles	1 pair	Single or double adjustable are recommended. Walking sticks or lightweight track skiing poles are not recommended. Trekking poles work well to relieve stress on knees and ankles. The Flick lock poles have proven to be a more durable option for Manitowish hikers. The twist locks have had more trouble with longevity. Spring loaded trekking poles work well to take pressure off your knees and ankles when going downhill.	

Miscellaneous Personal Gear

Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Water bladder	1	For drinking while hiking. Platypus Big Zip 3L is a good example. You should have 4 L of water carrying capacity total between your water bladder and bottles	
Water bottle	1-2	Quart or liter size. You may carry a bladder and water bottles and should have 4 L of water carrying capacity total	
Journal	1	Small packable journal with pen/pencil.	
Toiletries		Toothbrush and paste, comb/brush, prescription meds, baby wipes for females, feminine hygiene products. Avoid odorous items as they can attract bears. No deodorant.	
Feminine hygiene products		Many female trip leaders and past participants recommend using a keeper (www.keeper.com) or Diva Cup (www.divacup.com). Using one of these eliminates the need to carry around a blue bag for 25 days. Try it before camp if you are interested.	
Prescription glasses or contact lenses		Bring a spare set if this pertains to you.	
Spending money	\$50-\$100	Cash. Money for t-shirts, souvenirs, fishing licenses (~\$70 for season)	

Optional Gear

Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Camera	1 -Optional	Small, light and durable with extra batteries and memory cards	
Book	1-2-optional	Small books to be shared with group	
Vitamins	Optional	Multi-vitamin supplement, left in original packaging	
Knife	1-Optional	Small pocketknife, Leatherman	
Fishing gear	1-Optional	Spin rod or fly rod. For carrying convenience, look into backpacking specific poles that break into several pieces.	
Whistle	1- Optional	If you tend to get attached to your whistle, this way you can keep it at the end of the trip. Can borrow from camp.	
Crazy Creek or similar camp chair	1-Optional	It is nice to have some back support during 25 days of trail.	
Eating gear	1-Optional	If you have your favorite bowl, mug, or spoon, bring it. Nalgene or Tupperware (500 mL) type bowls with a lid, spoon and an insulated mug.	
Compass	1-Optional	If you have one that you are comfortable using, bring it.	
Binoculars	1-Optional	Small, lightweight binos could allow you to see some neat things.	

Clothing while at Camp Manito-wish

Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Non-trail, front country clothing	4 days of clothing	During this time, you will be indoors, outdoors and getting dirty. Bring some old comfortable clothes that will be stored at Camp while you are on trail. Keep it to what you will need.	
Towel	1	For showering at Camp	
Toiletries	1	Anything that you won't take on trail - shampoo, soap	
Bedding	1 - optional	Sheets/pillow for time at Camp before and after Camp. You can also use your trail sleeping bag.	

Recommended Boots

Look for medium-weight, off-trail backpacking/light mountaineering. This type of boot is made with full grain leather or synthetic upper portion and typically has a Vibram® rubber sole. Some models utilize an injection molded, composite rubber sole with a randed welt to bond the leather upper to the sole. Both types of sole are acceptable. These boots are designed for extended backpacking, provide good support for off-trail hiking with heavy packs, and usually require less break-in time than heavy mountaineering boots.

The below list is not a definitive selection guide, but it can serve as a starting point. The key is to find a boot that will stand up to 24 days of off trail hiking in one of the toughest environments in the United States. Do not skimp on your boot selection. Come to Camp with a **broken-in** good quality leather model designed for extended backpacking expeditions with heavy backpacks.

Examples of Acceptable Boots - Please note that manufactures often rename their boots

- Asolo: TPS 520 GV, TPS 535
- Lowa: Tibet GTX
- Garmont: Dakota
- La Sportiva: Thunder GTX
- Scarpa:, SL M3
- Technica: Galaad NB, Galaad SD GTX
- Vasque: St. Elias GTX, Eriksson, GTX, Sundowner GTX

Manitowish Footwear Policies:

Proper footwear is required on trips to limit injury. All participants and staff must follow these policies:

- **Backpacking Footwear:** Backpackers are required to bring at least two pairs of shoes on trail that fully enclose the feet. One of those pairs must provide adequate ankle support and is to be worn while hiking. The other should have a durable sole that would provide enough support in the event they were needed for hiking.
- **Kayaking Footwear:** Kayakers are required to bring at least one pair of shoes on trail that fully enclose the feet and one pair of wet shoes that are close-toed, secured around the ankle, and have a durable sole. Neoprene soles/socks are not acceptable as shoes.
- **Canoeing Footwear:** Canoeists are required to bring at least two pairs of shoes on trail that fully enclose the feet. One of those pairs must provide adequate ankle support and must be worn while portaging or lining rapids.
- **Shoes with exposed parts of the feet:** these types of shoes may be brought on trips in addition to those required in sections above. These shoes must be closed-toed, secured around the ankle, and have a durable sole. These types of shoes are only allowed to be worn in the campsite to air-out feet or while swimming. They may not be worn in the kitchen area of the campsite at any time.
- **Shoes that do not meet the requirements** above should not be worn on trail and include:
 - Sandals (including Chacos)
 - Flip Flops

Gear Provided by Camp Manito-wish

Tents

Stoves and fuel

Cooking gear

Backpack

Equipment repair kits

Maps and Compass

First Aid Kits

Emergency Communication Devices

Water Treatment