

BOY SCOUT TROOP 965
Special Recommendations for Winter Camping Equipment

The following gear is recommended for winter camping. Please remember that cotton clothing is slow to dry when it becomes damp or wet, and loses any insulation value under these conditions; so cotton should be avoided because it greatly increases the danger of hypothermia during winter camping. A far more sensible choice would be garments made from fleeced-type synthetic fibers, layered with garments containing at least 30% wool, both of which have good insulating value when damp. Such clothing is reasonable in price if you shop around. Many suitable garments are available which contain cotton with other fibers--just ensure the percentage of cotton doesn't exceed 70%.

CLOTHING – dress in layers to adjust for temperature changes.

Long pants – AVOID COTTON OR JEANS – Scout pants are primarily synthetic and work well; inexpensive synthetic-blend pants are available at Sunny's and other outlets.

Long Johns – Arctex type (available at Wal-Mart for under \$20 a set) are made of 100% fleeced acrylic, contain no cotton fiber, and are very warm. Thicker, more expensive fleeced polyester types are also available.

Sweat suit for sleeping – Cotton is OK here. THIS ITEM IS A MUST!

Gloves – Thinsulate or wool are recommended. BRING AT LEAST 2 PAIRS!

Sweater or sweatshirt – Again--AVOID 100% COTTON! An old synthetic sweater is a better choice than a cotton sweatshirt.

Socks – Wool/polyester blend are the best type for winter camping; bring several pairs, plus another pair just for sleeping. Again—AVOID COTTON!

Coat – A long winter coat, not just a jacket, WITH A HOOD. It must protect your Scout in below-freezing temperatures.

Hat – One or more WOOL knit hats (not expensive and available anywhere, superior to polyester in maintaining body temperatures).

Rain gear – Large enough to be worn over coat. DO NOT OMIT THIS IMPORTANT ITEM! Frequently, it rains during Operation Icicle. A wet Scout quickly becomes a "Scoutsicle" and ends up going home early or becoming sick!

Boots – Warm, waterproof winter boots. Bring an extra pair, too! Inexpensive felt-lined ones are readily available.

SLEEPING GEAR – gain layers allow for adjusting temperatures

Sleeping bag – A winter-weight sleeping bag is great, but don't buy one if you don't already have one. Instead, borrow a second sleeping bag and use both bags (3-season bags, one inside the other) in combination with an inexpensive fleece-type bag liner (about \$20-25 at Target or other local stores). This combination should be good down to 10 degrees Fahrenheit or better. Blankets, preferably wool, can be substituted for one of these bags.

Foam pad – A CLOSED-CELL foam pad is a MUST for winter camping. DO NOT BRING AN AIR MATTRESS, AS IT PROVIDES LITTLE OR NO INSULATION IN COLD WEATHER.

OTHER IMPORTANT GEAR – often these items are overlooked or forgotten

Canteen or water bottle – Scouts can become dehydrated quickly during the activities at Operation Icicle. Canteen can be kept from freezing by carrying under the coat or on a belt.

Flashlight with NEW batteries – during cold weather, battery voltage is greatly reduced, and the flashlight which worked OK at home might not light when needed in the campsite.

First aid kit (personal) – A Scout must BE PREPARED!

(Detailed packing list on next page)

BOY SCOUT TROOP 965
Operation Icicle Packing List (January, 2009)

Read chapter 8, "Trailhead," of your *Boy Scout Handbook* (starting on page 196) to learn why the following gear is recommended. There is a short, incomplete packing list on page 204.

AVOID CLOTHING WITH COTTON CONTENT, WHICH LEADS TO HYPOTHERMIA!

Please make sure you pack ALL of the following items:

Wear Class-A WINTER uniform, including troop baseball cap or stocking cap, long scout pants, scout crew socks, neckerchief and slide.

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| _____ warm winter coat with hood | _____ warm winter knit hat |
| _____ warm winter gloves (2 PAIRS!) | _____ rain gear (DO NOT FORGET) |
| _____ sweater, fleece, or sweatshirt | _____ long johns or sweatsuit |
| _____ long pants – 2 pairs (<i>avoid jeans or other cotton!</i>) | _____ extra long-sleeved shirt |
| _____ 2 sets of extra underwear | _____ sweatsuit just for sleeping |
| _____ 3 pairs wool/blend winter socks (1 just for sleeping) | _____ knit hat for sleeping |
| _____ insulated, warm winter boots (preferably water proof) | _____ extra pair of boots or warm shoes |
| _____ sleeping bag w/fleece bag line and/or extra blanket | _____ foam sleeping pad (closed-cell type) |
| _____ pillow and pillowcase | _____ flashlight w/extra NEW batteries |
| _____ pocket knife & Totin' Chip card | _____ compass |
| _____ towel, washcloth, toothbrush/paste, soap, toilet paper | _____ personal first aid kit (keep it simple) |
| _____ mess kit (or plate & cup) w/vittle kit)knife, fork, spoon | _____ small day pack |
| _____ plastic canteen or water container (2/3 full or less) | _____ matches in waterproof container |
| _____ <i>Boy Scout Handbook</i> , notebook paper, pen or pencil | _____ camera and film (optional) |
| _____ advancement needs or items/supplies | _____ money for trading post/patch auction |
| _____ any assigned patrol equipment (flag, etc.) | _____ folding camp chair (optional) |
| _____ kindling/tinder & dryer lint (for competition: 1 per patrol) | _____ rope, 2-foot length (for competition) |
| _____ flint & steel (for competition: 1 per patrol) | |

Patrols will be required to have knowledge of orienteering, compass use, knots, first aid, and fire building. Station Package will be supplied to each Patrol at Opening Ceremonies.

**Scouts should wear warm, layered clothing with minimal cotton content.
Pack all gear (except sleeping gear) in a soft duffel bag to be placed in a car.**

Troop policy prohibits bringing electronic items valued over \$20 or aerosol cans.