

KEEWAYDIN WILDERNESS OUTFIT LIST

Overview:

Come prepared for much colder, wetter weather than on your other trips, bugs, some hot sun, and lots of long portages. Bring lighter, dryer, and more durable gear than you have been. Lots of warm layers, nylon and polypropylene.

Passport and paperwork: No tripper has ever arrived at camp without a river bag. But nearly every year someone arrives without a passport, and someone arrives without a signed travel authorization. Or without permission to dispense essential medication. When you get ready to leave for camp, you will double check this list to make sure you have all the necessary items for the trip. Don't just check your river bag! Make sure you have your passport in hand when you leave for camp, and that your parents or guardians have submitted all the necessary papers. We can't take you into Canada without them.

Required Items:

River bag – make sure it's totally intact, waterproof, durable, and dry. The SealLine Boundary Pack (70 or 115 liters) is typical; the Pro Pack, while more expensive and heavier, has the advantage of a padded hip belt. If you use the smaller size, you'll want to have an extra "dry" (waterproof) bag for ancillary items (see below)

Sleeping bag – Synthetic fill, such as PolarGuard, must be rated to 20° F

Rain suit – High quality, durable, waterproof and breathable (made of GoreTex or some other similar fabric); pants and jacket both

Footwear – Two pairs of shoes totally covering the foot that can be used for loading/unloading boats, paddling, portaging, and campsite jobs. Most trippers and staff bring a combination of tall muck-style boots (Muck Wetland, Lacrosse Alpha Range, or similar styles), hiking boots (Lowa Renegade, Merrell Moab, or similar styles), or durable sneakers (trail runners, running shoes, or similar styles). Some trip leaders use amphibious shoes such as Salomon, Keen, or 5.10 canyoneering boots with Sealskinz-type waterproof socks as their primary on-water footwear, but if you do this you'll still be required to have backup footwear (boots or amphibious shoes) that can also be used either in camp for heavy work or on the water. If you use Bean boots or anything similar, bring extra waterproofing (e.g., Nikwax)

Socks – 4-5 pair of high, medium weight, wool blend (SmartWool or similar), warm and quick-drying. Sealskinz are also ok but you'll still need at least some wool or blend.

Heavy fleece sweater or jacket – something to keep you cozy in wet, *freezing* weather. If you're in doubt about whether it's heavy enough, bring two heavy fleeces. There will be some very cold days and nights.

Pants – two pair, ideal is a quick-drying, light nylon or polyester; no jeans or sweatpants

Shirts – 2 good polypropylene or capilene or other *long-sleeved* underlayers, ideally in different weights, plus whatever you may sleep in. Avoid cotton.

Underwear – At least 2-3 pair plus something to sleep in

Long Underwear – At least one set of capilene or other thermal long underwear (tops and bottoms)

Thermal sleeping pad – such as ThermaRest or Ensolite

Hats – a good lightweight sun hat with a wide brim, plus a warm fleece ski hat for very cold weather

Sunglasses – UV proof, plastic, wraparound and/or with strap *If you wear glasses, bring a strap and a spare pair*

Bandanna(s)

Headlamp & extra batteries – just in case. LED or dual beam LED/halogen

Bug protection – Headnet for bugs, plus a spare. If you try a “bug shirt”, bring a headnet, too

Water bottle – Ideally one or two 1 liter bottle(s) with built-in unbreakable loop on lid and a clip to fasten it easily in a canoe or on a portage

Gloves – Mid-weight paddling gloves such as the NRS “Rapid Glove” or Chota for cold days; bring work gloves for cutting wood, etc.

Chapstick – with SPF protection

Other Items (highly recommended, but choices depend on personal preferences):

Ground cloth -about 5’x8’, sturdy nylon with grommets, lightweight but not too flimsy. Can be used to cover items at night, for an extra dry ground layer, and possibly as a sail!

Towel – The microfiber “pack towels” work well

Bathing suit – Or something that you can swim in or possibly wear on warm days if the bugs aren’t bad

Stuff sacks (dry and wet bags) – Use several; the exact type depends on how you pack. You need a good “dry” (waterproof) bag with a clip to keep camera, notepad handy; some use a mesh “wet” bag for raingear and gloves. Then several lightweight stuff bags just to keep gear organized inside your river bag

Pocket knife or Multi-tool

Toiletries– at least toothbrush and small amount of toothpaste, plus whatever else you might need.

Sunscreen

Bug repellent

Sleepwear – Anything comfy and warm you like to sleep in that isn’t covered above

Writing, reading, and entertainment – a paperback book, journal and pens or pencils, playing cards, etc.

Camera & accessories – (“dry bag” as specified above for camera, and/or small waterproof case)

Collapsible fishing gear with tackle in secure packable container

If for any reason you feel you may be uncomfortable in a camp-provided PFD, feel free to bring your own

For use at Lake Dunmore before and after the trip:

Shorts, T-shirt, bathing suit, towel, books, extra underwear, etc., and a set of clothes for the banquet: (sport shirt, slacks, footwear). Something to keep them in. These are stored at Keewaydin during the trip. Wet loaders for use during training. Keewaydin rules: no flip flops in camp, no audible music, etc.

Some good suppliers

LL Bean (www.llbean.com)

CampMor (www.campmor.com)

Recreational Equipment Inc. (www.rei.com)

Eastern Mountain Sports (www.ems.com)

Cabela’s (www.Cabelas.com)

Northwest River Supplies (www.nrsweb.com)

Chota Outdoor Gear (www.chotaoutdoorgear.com)

Sierra Trading Post (www.sierratradingpost.com)