

TROOP 584 INTRODUCTORY GEAR GUIDE

The Leadership of Troop 584 has compiled an introductory gear guide that your scout will need. We hope you will find this guide helpful as we try to provide this early on before your Scout crosses over into the troop. Items can be purchased over a period of time and not create a large expense at the time of cross over. You may want to consider purchasing some of the more expensive gear for Christmas and birthdays.

Troop 584 is a FULL CLASS "A" UNIFORM Troop. This means that at scout meetings, scout functions and while traveling, unless otherwise stated, your Scout will be expected to wear a full Class "A" uniform. A Class "A" uniform consists of the following items: Tan short sleeve scout shirt (We recommend the short sleeve shirt as it can be used in all seasons. When it is cool or cold outside a long sleeve t-shirt can be worn underneath.), neckerchief, neckerchief slide, scout pants (We recommend the new Switchback Uniform Pants, these have zip off legs and for \$40 you have long pants, shorts and belt. They are made of 100% supplex nylon, which is good for hiking and can be worn as class "A" or "B".), scout belt /buckle and scout socks. Exceptions to this will be during the summer meetings when school is out and on certain designated camping trips a Class "B" uniform will be acceptable. A Class "B" uniform consists of the following items: scout t-shirt (can be a troop t-shirt or BSA t-shirt) scout pants (scout long pants, scout short pants or the new scout Switchback zip off hiking pants), scout belt /buckle and scout socks.

Although the following brands and specifications of gear are the recommendations of the Leadership of Troop 584 they are not mandatory. However we strongly encourage you to look closely at the specifications of the gear that we have recommended and stick as close as possible to the specifications when purchasing gear. If you have any questions about purchasing gear please feel free to contact us and we will be glad to answer any of your questions.

To help you decide where to spend the bulk of your dollars in outfitting your scout for the troop we feel that the following list should be followed. We have listed the items in the order of importance for camping as well as in the order of the need for good quality. (Please consider the cost of quality gear that will last and make your scouts adventure more pleasurable versus the low cost of lesser quality gear that will not hold up, not fit properly and prevent your scout from having an enjoyable experience in the great outdoors.)

1. SLEEPING BAG, SLEEPING PAD and COMPRESSION SACK.

A good quality sleeping bag if taken care of will last your son throughout his scouting adventures and on into adulthood. The sleeping bag should have a temperature rating of at least 20 degrees and fit inside the sleeping bag compartment of his back pack. The bag should not be heavy or bulky. It should provide the maximum amount of warmth for size and weight that you can afford. Your son should also have a sleeping pad. The sleeping pad serves 2 purposes. It provides a barrier between your son and the ground that will help keep him warm and comfortable and it also provides protection for the shell of his sleeping bag while your son is lying on it. A compression sack is used to carry the sleeping bag in while backpacking. The sleeping bag is stuffed into it and the straps on the side of the compression sack are tightened to reduce the size of the bag. This will give your son more space in his backpack. The proper storage of your sons' sleeping bag is important for longevity of the bag. Most higher quality sleeping bags come with a stuff sack and a large bag for the sleeping bag to be stored in. The sleeping bag should be loosely stuffed into this bag and hung up between uses. If you do not have a storage bag the sleeping bag can be stored by simply hanging it up. DO NOT STORE

SLEEPING BAGS IN STUFF SACK OR COMPRESSION SACK WHEN NOT IN USE. THIS WILL BREAK DOWN THE FILLING WHETHER SYNTHETIC FIBERS OR DOWN FILLING.

2. **WATERPROOF BOOTS and GOOD QUALITY HIKING SOCKS**

Just as cleats are to baseball, soccer and football, waterproof hiking boots are to scouting. Good quality waterproof boots (not rubber) that fit properly will keep your scouts feet warm and dry, as well as add their enjoyment when hiking and backpacking. Good quality hiking socks will help keep your scouts feet warm and help prevent blisters.

3. **BACKPACK**

Your son will probably want his own backpack. There are many different styles and brands available. There are 2 basic styles of backpacks, external frame and internal frame. We recommend the internal frame backpack. Internal frame backpacks tend to be lighter and are easier to pack. We recommend that you have your scout fitted for a pack at a reputable outdoor gear store, even if don't decide to purchase at that particular store. (Reputable outdoor gear stores: Outdoor Trails, Back Country Ski and Sports) Scouts get 10% off with scout ID.

4. **RAIN GEAR**

Our troop backpacks, hikes and camps year round. Your scout will get rained on. Your scout will need some form of rain gear. The most basic rain gear is a poncho. Ponchos are inexpensive and your scout will need at least this level of rain gear to go on outings with the troop. Rain suits which consist of rain jacket and rain pants are also acceptable rain gear. There are different levels of quality available.

5. **HEAD LAMPS and FLASH LIGHTS**

Your scout will need some form of light to use while on outings. We recommend a head lamp as it will allow your son hands free operation when working on tasks at night. L.E.D. style flash lights are a good choice for a back up light.

6. **EATING UTENSILS, CUPS and WATER BOTTLES**

Your son will be expected to have his own set of eating utensils (bowl, spoon, fork and cup). We recommend a Lexan type bowl, spoon/fork and cup. A stainless steel cup with handle is also acceptable. These are light weight and durable. We recommend Nalgene water bottles as they are durable. However there are many different items that can be used in place of the above listed items. For example: a plastic butter dish can be used for a bowl, a Wendy's fork and spoon can be used, an empty plastic drink bottle can be used for a water bottle.

7. **UNDERWEAR (LONG JOHN STYLE)**

When camping in cool or cold weather your scout will need (Long John Style) Underwear. However we recommend that you **DO NOT BUY HIM COTTON!!!** Cotton holds moisture and doesn't allow it to evaporate quickly. Your son will need the synthetic type underwear made from nylon, polyester or a synthetic type blend like Underarmour. You do not have to purchase the Underarmour brand, the Walmart version made by Starter works just fine.

8. **Hat**

For hiking and camping in cool and cold weather he should have a sock hat style pull on hat made from fleece or synthetic material.