

## Strathcona Park Lodge & Outdoor Education Centre

# BACKPACKING EQUIPMENT LIST

All program participants require appropriate clothing and equipment to participate in SPL programs. The weather is unpredictable, it can be sunny and warm in April or unseasonably cool and wet in August, so participants need to be prepared for whatever nature brings us. Consider this a list of “must-haves,” regardless of the season. In early spring or late fall you’ll want to add some warmer layers, and June thru mid September you may want extra shorts and T-shirts.

It should not be necessary to purchase new items to enjoy your SPL experience. We recommend borrowing, renting or purchasing second hand items that you do not already own.

### CLOTHING

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For active outdoor pursuits, the best way to regulate body temperature and to maintain warmth is to wear layers of clothing that can be adjusted depending on the weather, temperature and activity level. Layers should include long underwear, warm mid-layers and waterproof outerwear. Wool, nylon, polyester and synthetic fleece are recommended as clothing materials because they provide insulation even when wet and dry quickly. Cotton clothing is not acceptable for warm layers. Cotton loses any insulating value when wet, is slow to dry and should not be worn in damp conditions.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER RAINGEAR CANNOT BE OVERSTATED. Raingear must be waterproof (coated PVC or Gore-Tex) – if you can’t stay dry in the shower while wearing your raingear, it is not acceptable.

There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing.

In addition to regular clothes each person requires:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Rain jacket and pants                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Gaiters – for keeping snow, water and debris out of hiking boots (recommended April – June) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 fleece, wool or acrylic tops/sweaters          | <input type="checkbox"/> Bathing suit  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair of nylon, fleece or wool pants            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun hat or baseball hat   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wool or synthetic long underwear top and bottoms | <input type="checkbox"/> Fleece/wool toque (warm hat) & gloves   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warm fleece or synthetic fill jacket             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Synthetic T-shirt                                |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 pairs of wool socks                            |  |

### FOOTWEAR

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- 1 pair of lightweight running shoes or sandals for around camp
- Mid-weight hiking boots with ankle support. Boots must be broken in and waterproofed. Individuals participating in multi-day backcountry hikes in the fall should bring medium to heavy weight boots.
- 2 plastic grocery shopping bags for waterproofing footwear.

### EQUIPMENT

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag and stuff sack (minimum -7°C; synthetic fill is preferable) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping pad (closed cell foam or Therm-A-Rest type)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen: SPF 30 or higher                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 60+ litre backpack with padded hip belt                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Headlamp or flashlight with spare batteries                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries & Towel   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1L water bottle, unbreakable cup, bowl & spoon                 |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Garbage bags and 5 large Zip-loc bags for waterproofing gear |

### OPTIONAL ITEMS

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Camera  | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Journal and pencil  | <input type="checkbox"/> Spending money   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mosquito-proof head net ( <b>recommended mid-May thru mid-October</b> ) |   |

### IMPORTANT NOTES

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- If you require **glasses** (safety strap recommended) or **contact lenses** bring an extra pair of glasses as a back-up.
- If you require **prescription medication**: A) Check the expiry date. B) Bring a complete second set (that your instructor/guide can carry) in case the first set is damaged or lost. C) Ensure all medication is packaged in a waterproof bag (Zip-lock) and labelled with your name, drug name, dose and expiry date.
- Please do not bring cell phones (they don’t work here), electronic games or iPod’s/MP3 players.