

Scout Troop 166/066

Newcomer Guide: Camping Gear Basics

Our Troop goes camping every month of the year. During the school year, outings are typically a Saturday overnight camping experience.

Basic Personal Camping Gear

Backpack

Used on all outings. A 40–60L pack works well for most 1–3 night trips.

Mess Kit

Fork/knife/spoon (or spork), cup, plate, bowl.

Sleeping Bag

A 20–30°F rated synthetic mummy bag is a good all-purpose choice.

Sleeping Pad

Foam or inflatable — provides insulation and comfort.

Hiking Boots/Shoes

Ensure a good fit; waterproofness helps too. Break them in before your first trip.

10-Essential Items to Include

Rain Gear

Minimally a poncho; rain jacket and rain pants are better. We camp in all weather!

Personal First Aid Kit

Basic items stored in a quart ziplock bag.

Pocket/Folding Knife

Keep it small and light for backpacking.

Rope

50' of 1/4 inch braided rope or para-cord (often cut to shorter lengths for lashing, rain flies, etc.).

For a detailed gear guide with product recommendations and photos, see the [Backpacking Gear List document](#).

Shared / Group Gear

Tents, stoves, cooking pans, dining fly, axes, etc. Patrols figure out who brings what — these are shared and the type needed varies by outing. Not all scouts need these items; they can often be borrowed from the Troop or other families.

On car-camping trips, larger tents and 2-burner stoves are common. On backpacking or canoeing trips, lighter 1–3 person tents are preferred. Some scouts opt to hammock when possible.