

WHAT EQUIPMENT A SCOUT NEEDS AND WHERE TO BUY IT

The following is the minimum we recommend for new Boy Scouts.

Uniform.

1. Khaki Shirt to include: Council patch, Troop number (provided by Troop), red epaulets, neckerchief with Boy Scout slide (provided by Troop). The new scouts will choose a Patrol name and will get a patrol emblem after that. The Arrow of Light is worn on the bottom of the left shirt pocket. Religious Award knots earned in Cub Scouts may be worn over the left shirt pocket. Participation stars may also be worn over the left shirt pocket (optional).
2. Official Boy Scout Pants – There are now a couple of versions.
3. Official Boy Scout Shorts – The new pants have zip off legs so they can be both.
4. Official Boy Scout Socks
5. Official Boy Scout Belt
6. Hiking Boots – tennis shoes get wet and are not for all of the terrain we may encounter. These do not have to be expensive, but must be comfortable.

The Class "A" uniform includes all of the above and is the normal prescribed uniform for all ceremonies, troop meetings during the school year, official Troop activities, and departure for Troop events. The Class "B" uniform consists of the above except the khaki shirt is exchanged for a Troop or other Boy Scout T-shirt or collared shirt. It is worn for informal events and to Troop meetings during the summer months (Memorial Day to Labor Day). Troop 205 strongly encourages wearing the complete Class "A" or "B" uniform as appropriate to all Troop events. When out camping, etc., the kids usually change into personal gear after arrival and check-in.

Equipment: The kids may want to have all kinds of neat, exotic, and often expensive outdoor gear. Here are the initial essentials:

1. Sleeping bag. A cotton rectangular bag will be fine for warm weather camping when the evenings only get down to around 50° or so. A fair number of kids use these at summer camp because they are comfortable and aren't packed and unpacked on a daily basis. However, for cool and cold weather camping, a good mummy style bag with polyester (hollofill, quallofill, etc.) fill rated to at least 20° or lower is needed (\$70-\$200 depending on make and model – CAMPMOR often has good bags rated to 20° or less on sale for \$85-\$100). Don't go overboard, though. The lower the temperature rating, the heavier and more expensive the bag gets. Also, down is very warm ... when dry, but isn't when it gets wet.
2. Sleeping pad. These come in many styles. Closed cell foam pads are the best at providing insulation from the ground and a comfortable place to sleep. Some kids prefer a 3/4 length pad for weight consideration or they are long enough that it's full-length for them. Slumberjack and Thermarest make self-inflating sleeping pads. These are generally more expensive, heavier, and the inflating valves eventually fail (\$40-\$70). The current pads of choice are Ridgerest (roll-up) (\$12-\$24) and Z-Rest (fold-up)(\$20-\$25). However, for summer camp and warm weather camping out of the car (1st couple of years), any pad will do, particularly if you already have one).

3. Mess kit. Forget the old fold-up kit aluminum kit with a wing nut that always gets lost and those clip together utensils. Get a camp plate and bowl (like from Coleman for \$8) for those nice multi-course camp meals. Get some old utensils from home or buy lexan or sturdy plastic utensils (\$3) - primarily fork and spoon or spork (all good scouts carry a knife, yes?). Consider a 16oz sierra cup (available from CAMPMOR for \$5) for those one-pot meals. Consider a small thermal plastic mug also (CAMPMOR has one that is clear plastic with oz. gradations on the side for \$4). Finally, get a mesh bag (with your name on it) to put it all in to keep it together (\$3). Model paint and nail polish are useful for labeling mess kits and utensils (or anything else) because it does not wash off like “permanent” marker.

4. Water bottle or canteen. If you have to buy a new one, our Troop recommends the 32oz Nalgene wide-mouth bottle (\$6.50). It's nearly unbreakable, has measuring gradations, and a wide mouth for mixing kool-aid that also makes it easy to clean. If you don't have a day or fanny pack, you can get a nylon bottle holder (\$4) that will go on your belt and hold the bottle.

5. Personal flashlight. Most Scouts prefer the 2-AA battery maglight (\$10), but headlamps have gained in popularity. The new LED bulbs also last longer and burn brighter on low batteries than the old incandescent bulbs.

6. Pocketknife. Any sharp folding pocketknife will do. Make sure you have a way to attach it to your body or belt. Some kids like the added benefits of Swiss army knives and/or multi-tools like Gerbers or Leathermans, but they are expensive.

7. A means to transport your equipment - either a duffel bag or backpack. You don't need a backpack initially! If and when your Scout gets interested in backpacking, a pack will be necessary. If you decide you really want a pack go to a good outfitter and buy one that fits.

Tents, cooking gear, lanterns, tarps, etc. are all provided by the Troop Quartermaster. Patrols draw needed gear prior to each event, use it, clean it, and return it afterwards.

See one of the older Scouts or an adult leader if you have equipment questions, we're always willing to “talk gear.”

Okay, where do you go to get started? The choices are many, and each has advantages and disadvantages. None of what follows is intended as a specific endorsement of one source or product over another, although we identify recommended items and good deals wherever possible. Members of the Troop have had good luck (and, every now and again, not so good luck) with these sources, their available selections and prices can vary. Your best bet is always to comparison shop. The adult leaders and older Scouts can also provide you the benefit of their experience. Feel free to ask.

Scout Uniforms and Official Scout Equipment

<p>Roesch Scout Service Center 1900 N. Meridian Indianapolis, IN 46206 317/921-3468 x209 fax 317/921-3474 IndyScoutShop@crossroadsbsa.org</p> <p>Hours: M-F 8:30-6:00 (Office closes at 5:00 PM) Sat 9:00-3:00 (Scout Shop only - Office closed) Closed on Sunday & Holidays</p>	<p>A complete selection of Scout uniforms, insignia, publications, accessories, and official outdoor equipment.</p>
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Catalogues and Web Sites

<p>BSA Official Catalogue P.O. Box 65989 Charlotte, NC 28265-0989 (800) 323-0732 http://www.scoutstuff.org</p>	<p>A complete selection of mail order Scout uniforms, insignia, publications, accessories, and official outdoor equipment. Phone and fax orders accepted. Get on their mailing list and you get a new catalogue every year.</p>
<p>Campmor 810 Rte 17 North P.O. Box 997-E Paramus, NJ 07653-0997 (800) 525-4784 http://www.campmor.com</p>	<p>A Scout favorite when you know what you want. Several catalogues a year. Everything for the camper and backpacker. Competitive prices. Check the “super special deals.” Comprehensive web has better illustrations of merchandise than the catalogue.</p>
<p>Sierra Trading Post 5025 Campstool Rd. Cheyenne, WY 82007-1898 (800) 713-4534 http://www.sierratradingpost.com</p>	<p>The ultimate collection of overstocks, overruns, and discontinued items. You really need to know your product before shopping here, but again, look in the stores and then check this and Campmor for a bargain before paying retail.</p>