

Winter Camping Packing List

Cold-weather camping additions and modifications. In winter camping, staying dry is as important as staying warm. No cotton.

Scout name: _____

Trip / destination: _____

Dates: _____

The layering rule: Base layer wicks moisture away from skin. Mid layer insulates. Outer shell blocks wind and rain. Adjust layers as activity level changes — sweating in the cold is dangerous. **Cotton kills in winter. Every base layer must be synthetic or wool.**

LAYERING SYSTEM (THE MOST IMPORTANT PART)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Base layer top — moisture-wicking synthetic or wool (NO cotton) | ☐ Base layer bottom — moisture-wicking synthetic or wool |
| ☐ Mid layer — fleece jacket or wool sweater | ☐ Insulating layer — down or synthetic puffy jacket |
| ☐ Outer shell — waterproof/windproof jacket with hood | ☐ Waterproof shell pants |
| ☐ Warm hat covering ears | ☐ Balaclava or neck gaiter |
| ☐ Insulated gloves or mittens | ☐ Liner gloves (wear under mittens) |
| ☐ Wool or synthetic socks — 3+ pairs (NO cotton) | ☐ Waterproof insulated boots |
| ☐ Camp booties or extra insulation for evenings | |

SLEEPING

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Cold-rated sleeping bag (rated 10–15°F below expected low) | ☐ Sleeping bag liner for additional warmth |
| ☐ Insulated sleeping pad (R-value 4+ for ground insulation) | ☐ Tent rated for 3-season or winter use |
| ☐ Extra blanket or quilt | |

GEAR & EQUIPMENT

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Backpack with rain cover | ☐ Hand warmers (multiple pairs) |
| ☐ Foot warmers | ☐ Headlamp with fresh batteries (cold drains batteries fast — carry spares) |
| ☐ Trekking poles (helps on icy terrain) | ☐ Waterproof stuff sacks or dry bags |
| ☐ Duct tape (for gear repairs in the field) | |

FOOD & WATER

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ High-calorie snacks — your body burns more in cold | ☐ Insulated water bottle or thermos |
| ☐ Water filter or purification tablets | ☐ Extra high-calorie emergency food |
| ☐ Camp stove + extra fuel (cold reduces fuel efficiency) | ☐ Cooking pot + spork |

SAFETY & FIRST AID

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Personal first aid kit | ☐ Hypothermia awareness — know the signs and treatment |
| ☐ Emergency whistle | ☐ Map and compass |
| ☐ Emergency space blanket | ☐ Sunscreen (UV reflects off snow) |
| ☐ Sunglasses or goggles (snow blindness is real) | |

PERSONAL

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Toiletries in a waterproof bag | ☐ Prescription medications |
| ☐ Completed BSA health form (on file with SM) | ☐ Scout handbook |
| ☐ Notebook and pencil | ☐ Cash for emergencies |
| ☐ BSA membership card | |

Independent resource — not affiliated with or endorsed by Scouting America. Always verify current BSA advancement requirements at [scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org) or with your local council. Requirements are updated periodically.