

Equipment List

Bivouac 2022

Below you will find a list of items to pack for your Bivouac program. Please make note of the tips and recommendations from us. The numbers listed for each item are recommendations only, and in some cases items such as t-shirts and socks may be used for multiple days.

Due to space limitations on the buses and in the tents, students must limit luggage to one large duffel bag, one sleeping bag, and one small backpack, the last of which may be carried on the bus. We discourage over-packing because students will need to transport their own luggage by foot to the squad areas. In some cases, these distances are considerable.

Most of the equipment needed for the Bivouac program can be gathered from existing personal belongings or borrowed from upperclassmen, friends, and family. We do all we can to help make the equipment list financially manageable and hope that the guidelines below will make that possible. A limited number of good quality sleeping bags, rainsuits, duffel bags and rain boots will be made available first to our students receiving financial aid and then to the larger student population to help defray the cost of the program. Please look for further information on these in a separate email or reach out to Bivouac Director, David Strodel, at dstrodel@bbns.org.

A few important packing notes:

- Students must not bring food with them. We want to discourage wildlife from visiting tent, squads, or personal gear!
- Students must pack sleeping bags in a trash bag in case it is raining upon arrival at Bivouac.
- Students must not bring a cell phone, radio, iPod, or any other type of electronic device. These devices, if brought, will be collected by the staff upon arrival and returned after Bivouac.
- Valuable items should be labeled in permanent marker with the student's name.
- Do not over-pack! A student may bring one large duffel bag, one sleeping bag, and one small backpack.
- Knives of any kind, including pocketknives, such as a Leatherman, are not permitted. Any sharp tools that are necessary will be issued to each squad.

Essentials

Item	Quantity	Comments	Checklist
Sleeping bag	1	A sleeping bag can be borrowed from a friend or family. If you plan to buy a new sleeping bag, we recommend synthetic fill rather than down fill. The synthetic fill remains warm when wet and is generally less expensive. In either case, the bag should be rated to approximately 20°F. Be sure to pack the sleeping bag in a trash bag in case it is raining upon arrival.	
Rain gear	1 top and 1 bottom	A full waterproof rain suit that includes a jacket with a hood and pants is required. Light plastic suits do not hold up over the length of the program, and ponchos are not acceptable.	
Base layer or long underwear	1 set	Long underwear (polypropylene), also called a base layer, is required (top and bottom). Turtlenecks can be substituted for tops.	
Jackets	2	One light jacket or fleece and one heavier jacket are recommended. Heavier shell jackets can be combined with fleece and base layers for added warmth.	

Our advice: The equipment above is versatile and durable. For anyone who enjoys outdoor activities these items are a worthwhile investment. A small pillow or camping pillow can be helpful but a full-sized pillow is discouraged due to its size. Sleeping pads are provided by Bivouac and are not required for students to bring unless they prefer to use their own.

Clothing

Item	Quantity	Comments	Checklist
Heavy wool or fleece sweater	1	This is critical in case of extended cold and/or rainy weather.	
Shirts and t-shirts	6-7	Several t-shirts are essential. These should include one or two non-cotton, synthetic shirts. In addition, one or two light long-sleeved shirts and a heavier wool or fleece shirt should be included.	
Shorts	2-3	These should be a mixture of both athletic and cotton/cargo-type shorts. Shorts should be loose-fitting for hiking and climbing the rock wall. Jean shorts are not recommended.	
Pants	2-3	Loose fitting, comfortable pants should be packed. This can include jeans, cotton pants, cargo pants, and/or sweatpants.	
Underwear	8-10		
Bathing suits	1-2		
Towels	3	1 small hand towel for the squad area and 2 bath sized for swimming/bathing	
Work gloves	1 pair	Heavy cotton or leather	
Mittens	1 pair	Wool or fleece	
Hats	2	A warm hat (wool or fleece) is mandatory for cold nights. A baseball cap can also be useful.	
Bandanas	2	These are useful while hiking and working in the squad area. These are recommended but not required.	

Our advice: Bivouac weather can vary from summer-like and warm to quite cold. Balancing what is brought to accommodate both extremes is more important than bringing many items. Remember, you carry what you pack! Please label expensive items such as swimsuits and raingear with permanent marker.

Footwear

Item	Quantity	Comments	Checklist
Sneakers or running shoes	2 pairs	No open-toed shoes or flip-flops are allowed. This rule is to prevent injuries.	
Waterproof boots	1 pair	Waterproof rubber boots are mandatory. The leather and rubber combination boots (<i>e.g.</i> L.L. Bean “Duck Boots”) or all-rubber rain boots work well. All-leather boots are not suitable for this item as they will soak through.	
Work/hiking boots	1 pair	If broken-in, these are useful, but not required. This type of boot will not keep feet dry in heavy rain.	
Wool socks	6 pairs	At least six pairs of wool (such as Smart Wool or REI brand) socks are required.	
Athletic socks	6 pairs	At least six pairs of athletic-type socks are required.	

Our advice: A pair (or two) of sneakers, a pair of work or light hiking boots and some sort of waterproof boots are the key footwear needed. Closed-toe sandals (such as Teva/Keen shoes) are acceptable, but flip-flops are not allowed. Do not bring new hiking boots since if they are not broken-in, they can easily cause blistering.

Personal and Required Items

Item	Quantity	Comments	Checklist
6' x 8' tarp	1	This will be used as an equipment cover, on the tent, or as a solo shelter.	
Flashlight	1-2	A heavy-duty flashlight with an extra bulb is required. A headlamp or tent lantern can be nice.	
Cotton clothesline or sash-cord rope	200'	This type of rope is better found in local hardware stores rather than in large sporting goods or home improvement stores. The diameter should be ¼ inch and can be in 50' or 100' sections. Do not bring nylon rope. This must be cotton rope and not a blend.	
Three pencils	2-3	Mechanical pencils are fine.	
Notebook	1	A school-sized, spiral-bound notebook is necessary. A small journal is encouraged but not required.	
Eating utensils	2	Items that are required include: one insulated mug, one knife/fork/spoon, one plastic bowl, and one smaller diameter plate. It is not necessary to purchase a camp kit for this; items already at home will suffice.	
Large plastic trash bags	3-4	Clothing will remain dry if trash bags are used as liners inside the duffel bag.	
Alarm watch or clock	1	No cell phones or iPods are allowed. A watch or travel alarm clock is required.	
Two plastic water bottles	2	Hydration is key! Two water bottles (quart-or liter-sized) are a necessity.	
Small backpack or daypack	1	This item is useful for the day hike, orienteering, and if students choose to go on solo. This item can be carried on the bus.	
Duffel bags or pack	1	Do not bring oversized, rolling luggage. All luggage must be carried over hilly terrain and dirt trails to the squad sites.	
Toiletries		As needed. A toothbrush and deodorant are highly recommended and appreciated by squad mates!	
Dr. Bronner's Liquid Soap and Ivory Soap		A small (2 oz) bottle of Dr. Bronner's and one bar of Ivory soap are all that is necessary. These all-natural soaps are much less harmful to the environment than standard ones.	

Our advice: Packing smaller items in Ziploc bags can help to protect them. Do not bring shampoo or conditioners other than Dr. Bronner's soap. Ivory and Dr. Bronner's are the most environmentally friendly and appropriate for our setting.