

## Kayak Trips

*This is classified as an outing where the camp is to be reached via kayak, and the intent is to pack all personal gear in the hull or cockpit, or on the deck, of a solo or tandem kayak.*

<b>Storage/Packing:</b>	When packing a kayak, it is possible to store gear within the following areas (in order of preference) 1) within the hull 2) within the cockpit or 3) on the deck. As it is preferable to maintain a low center of gravity to promote stability and reduce windage, packing below the waterline (in the hull) is the goal. Gear on the deck and in the cockpit is also at a greater risk of being lost in the event of capsizing (and can potentially inhibit recovery). Access to the hull is generally via round or oval hatches that are 10" to 12" in diameter. <b>ALL</b> areas of a kayak are considered wet areas, regardless of the claim that the hatch covers are water tight. It is acceptable to store certain non-water sensitive items (tent poles, stakes, etc.) directly in the hull, but be cognoscente that very small items may migrate throughout the hull in a disorderly fashion.
<b>Bags:</b>	8 to 13 liter roll top dry bags or medium sized Ziploc "Space Bags." Pack the bags to a capacity where they are still flexible and can be "finessed" through the deck hatch. Ziploc makes "Space Bags" that are designed for closet storage and provide for an economic alternative to a roll top dry bag - they work quite well and cost about one tenth that of a high quality roll top bag (\$3/bag vs. \$30/bag).
<b>Tent or Hammock:</b>	1 or 2 man tent. Remember, space is of a significant premium on the boats, so tent buddies or one man tents are essential. If you choose to hammock, <b>ENSURE</b> there will be trees at the campsite. Historically, most destinations have <b>NOT</b> been able to support hammocking.
<b>Sleeping Bag:</b>	Compressible size is the most critical component in choosing an appropriate sleeping system for a kayak trip. Your sleeping system <b>MUST</b> be kept dry and <b>MUST</b> pack down to a very small package. Generally, a sleeping bag rated for 40 to 50 degrees, or simply a compressible blanket, can accommodate a kayak outing (these are typically late spring or summer trips). Down bags are much more expensive than synthetic, and each material has its plusses and minuses. Down bags pack down extremely tightly and offer a great warmth/weight ratio. If taken care of they will last a lifetime and will not lose their thermal properties as they age. The downside is that down loses its thermal properties if wet - unless it is a treated i.e. "Dri-down" (some manufacturers sell bags with this type of "treated" down). Synthetic bags are heavier and are not as compressible, but do offer some warmth when wet. Synthetic bags do break down over time and can lose their loft and therefore their thermal properties as they age.
<b>Sleeping Pad:</b>	Again, the theme with a kayak outing is packing size. Smaller is better - foam pads or inflatable (Thermarest style) are acceptable. The general benefit of inflatable pads are pack size, but they are more expensive. Sleeping pad insulation is critical for a comfortable evening on the ground. Note that an "inflatable" pad is <b>NOT</b> an air mattress, but a backpacking style sleeping pad with thermal properties.
<b>Sleep/Pack Pillow</b>	As space is a premium, you should limit your pillow to a small inflatable design or just use a stuff sack containing your extra clothing. You can also use your PFD.
<b>Class A Uniform:</b>	Required for travel and Flag ceremonies, but will not travel on the kayak.
<b>Rain Gear:</b>	A quality rain shell (uninsulated waterproof jacket), or spray jacket, is very valuable. A poncho is not recommended for kayak outings. Rain pants are seldom needed, but for more extreme late shoulder month or winter conditions.
<b>Insulated Top:</b>	If weather dictates, a synthetic (fleece) or wool mid layer may be needed. This is nice to put on when the sun goes down and wind picks up, or first thing in the morning.
<b>Sun Hat/Warm Hat:</b>	Ball cap or wide brimmed hat. Sunglasses and a Buff are also recommended as participants will be highly exposed to the sun for extended periods of time.
<b>Clothing (pants/shorts, shirts, socks, underwear):</b>	<b>NO COTTON, YOU WILL BE ON AND AROUND THE WATER.</b> Synthetic materials or wool are needed. Cotton will not dry timely and loses its shape and all of its thermal properties when wet. It also becomes abrasive, promoting blisters and rashes. For paddling, a bathing suit and a <b>LONG SLEEVE</b> synthetic and UPF rated shirt or "rash guard" is recommended (for sun protection). <b>ONE</b> change of shorts and shirt for times off the water - and for sleeping. The participants will re-don their paddling clothes when they hit the boats each day. Note that the type of clothing needs to match the prevailing season and weather conditions. <b>Again, for sun protection, long sleeve synthetic UPF rated shirts are highly recommended.</b>
<b>Shoes:</b>	Water shoes or old sneakers that can get wet are required. <b>CLOSED TOE ONLY</b> , no sandals will be allowed, as participants could traverse areas with sharp shells and other abrasive objects. Pack a second pair of shoes - open toed shoes are acceptable - for the return car trip (left in the car with the Class A uniform).
<b>Mess Kit:</b>	You can go as simple as a plate/bowl and spork, or go all out with a fancy nesting kit. The kayak theme is <b>MINIMALIST</b> , as space is very limited.
<b>Water Bottle:</b>	You can go buy a Nalgene/Platypus bottle, or just use a Gatorade/plastic disposable bottle. Need to be able to carry at least 2 liters. An excellent way of transporting potable water in a kayak is in a recycled 2 liter soda bottle.
<b>First Aide Kit:</b>	Personal size for minor cuts, blisters and abrasions and sunburn - the Troop will bring a group kit.
<b>Pocket Knife:</b>	<b>ONLY IF SCOUT HAS HIS TOTIN CHIP.</b>
<b>Personal Toiletry Kit:</b>	TP in Ziploc, Trowel, Toothbrush/Toothpaste, <b>non-aerosol (cream) insect repellent and SUNSCREEN. NO AEROSOLS - THEY ARE PROHIBITED BY BSA.</b>
<b>Headlamp:</b>	LED headlamp with one set of extra batteries.
<b>Towel:</b>	A backpack style towel (shammy style) that will pack small and dry quickly.
<b>Whistle:</b>	To be affixed to the PFD, for signaling.
<b>Signal Mirror:</b>	Excellent maritime safety device.
<b>Emergency Blanket:</b>	Excellent backup if gear gets wet.
<b>Fire Starting Tools:</b>	<b>ONLY IF SCOUT HAS FIREM'N CHIT.</b> Flint and steel with cotton balls in a Ziploc bag works well.
<b>Compass:</b>	Good to have when you want to know where to go.
<b>Duct Tape:</b>	Always carry duct tape, a small amount will do.
<b>Trash Bags:</b>	Sufficient to pack out your trash.
<b>Recommended Luxuries:</b>	Baby powder (to remove sand on feet), body wipes (to refresh and remove the salt). This will materially enhance your sleeping experience.

- NOTES:**
- 1 The Troop provides all cooking gear and fuel for outings.
  - 2 Ask around if you don't have gear, the Troop has some items for loan. Don't feel as if you have to go spend a fortune at an outdoor store for your first outing.