

October 4, 2005

Dear Troop 2 Scouts and Families:

Fall and winter camping are now upon us. From September through next May (even into next June...depending on where we go), on any camping trip in the Rocky Mountains, severe winter camping conditions may pop up at any time. For example, in October 2002, on a beginner's trip at Camp Alexander, we had beautiful Autumn conditions on Saturday. We played Capture the Flag that afternoon in our summer camping shorts. Saturday night, a storm rolled in, we had a whiteout blizzard, and received about 6 inches of snow. Because, our Scouts were all prepared, it was not a problem and everyone had a good time.

Now is the time to double-check, with your Scout, that he is prepared for winter camping conditions. From now until next summer, on any trip, he should always be prepared for the worst.

When we are leaving the church for a trip, if we find out your Scout does not have basic winter camping gear, we will probably leave him at home. We have had to do this twice in the past, and I hope we never have to do it again. When a Scout is unprepared for a camping trip, it puts a huge burden on the rest of the troop--especially the adult leaders. If we have to bring a boy home, it requires two adult leaders ("two deep") to transport the Scout. That leaves the rest of the Troop with weaker supervision. Most of the leaders bring extra gear just in case a Scout gets in trouble. But, you need to make sure that your son is as well prepared as possible.

The attached list is a copy of a list we gave your son when he first joined Troop 2. Now might be a good time to also look at his Troop notebook and see if it needs some fixing up. If you have any questions at all about the gear list, please call or email me.

Yours in Scouting,

Tom Tindell  
Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 2

## Troop 2

### Mandatory Gear for Cold Weather Camping:

- ❑ **Search and Rescue insurance**--\$5-10 through an outfitter or good quality shop like Grand West or Mountain Chalet. Also included if you have a fishing or hunting license.
- ❑ **No cotton clothing (blue jeans, t-shirts, etc...) as the only type of clothing on a Fall/Winter trip.** On some Fall/Winter trips, the weather may be mild to warm during the day; but, temperatures and weather in the Rocky Mountains can change suddenly. Even in the Summer and Fall, temperatures at night can drop dramatically! Don't catch a chill! Any Scout who has cotton clothing as their primary clothing for the trip, will either not be allowed to go on the trip or will be taken home.  
**Severe winter conditions may exist in September, October, April-June.**
- ❑ **NO COTTON CLOTHING of any kind on a winter camping trip where we know we are either building snow shelters or pitching tents in the snow--usually on trips November through late April.**
- ❑ **High quality full length ground pad (self inflating Therma-Rest type is usually best)**
- ❑ **Zero degree rated mummy sleeping bag**
- ❑ **Polar fleece pants and jacket. Think layers!!** If you have a good set of these, the fleece sleeping bag liner probably won't be needed. In cold weather conditions, you can live in this stuff.
- ❑ **Polypro. Long underwear--top and bottom--2 sets. NO COTTON!! In winter conditions, the polypro. will save your life.** You need two sets, in case the first pair gets sweaty or wet (from snow). If this happens, you change into the dry pair before bed.
- ❑ **Leather and/or Gore-Tex Winter boots.** Trail shoes/boots with nylon mesh do not work well at all. Feet always get wet and cold. No athletic tennis shoes.
- ❑ **Hiking/camping socks. NO COTTON!**
- ❑ **Snow/ski pants--wind and waterproof.**
- ❑ **Good quality winter/ski coat and/or shell--wind and water proof.**
- ❑ **Good quality winter/ski hat and gloves.** Two pairs of each are required on trip where we are building snow shelters or pitching tents in snow. Wool or fleece.
- ❑ **Good quality water bottles (Nalgene)...that can hold very hot water/drinks.**
- ❑ **Survival kit including a space blanket.**
- ❑ **Personal First Aid Kit**
- ❑ **Fleece sleeping bag liner (optional).** Only needed in harsh conditions or if the sleeping bag is not 0 degree rated.
- ❑ Depending on the kind of trip we are taking, other gear may be required--ie, snow shoes, skis, llamas, Sherpas, Yeti, Fur-bearing trout, Snowmobile, etc...

### **Other items that are always needed on camping trips:**

- Positive attitude.
- Good health/fitness.
- Two water bottles (Neoprene or Neoprene style) filled with water and drank several times a day.
- Flashlight and/or headlamp
- Sunglasses, sunscreen, and lip balm
- Mess kit
- Scout Handbook
- Compass
- Notebook and mechanical pencils
- Camp cup/mug for hot drinks and/or meals
- Toiletries.
- First Aid kit

**NO JUNK FOOD OF ANY KIND KEPT IN TENTS, PACKS, OR CLOTHING.** Snacks should be treated as food planned with the patrol and kept with other food.

Cooking gear, food, tents, tarps, rope, extra water, firewood...will be coordinated within your patrol, other patrols, and the troop.

If you're not sure, plan ahead, and ask early!!

More information can be found on the Troop web page at: <http://troop2.homestead.com/>