

## 10th Grade Backcountry Hut Trip Gear List

***In the world of Outdoor Adventure, proper clothing and gear is not optional.***

*Weather and outdoor conditions are unpredictable and sometimes severe. Cotton is unsafe in the mountains because of its poor insulation and inability to dry quickly in a rapidly changing and harsh environment. Gear numbers listed include what students should wear on Day One.*

*For example, three pairs of socks means two packed with other gear and one pair worn to school for the first day of voyage. Remember to **bring a sack lunch for the first day only**.*



**PLEASE NOTE: This is a backpacking trip.** Although students will be sleeping in huts at night, we will be snowshoeing into the backcountry carrying all of our gear (including group gear). When backpacking, the goal is to be as lightweight as possible. Please DO NOT overpack. Overpacking leads to a far less enjoyable experience. Additionally, multiple light/midweight layers are always recommended over heavyweight layers, especially when backpacking. Always avoid heavyweight layers when possible.

### Personal Gear (wool or synthetic - NO COTTON):

- 1 comfortable pair waterproof lace-up boots/shoes (suitable for snowshoeing; new boots can cause blisters; [break them in first](#))
- 1 lightweight hut slippers (**optional**)
- 1-2 pairs heavy socks
- 1-2 pairs medium socks
- 1 long underwear shirt
- 1 long underwear pants
- 1 heavyweight pants (sweatpants - Cotton OK)
- 1 quick-dry pants/leggings
- 1 waterproof shell (snow) pants
- 2-4 pair underwear
- 1 pair boot gaiters (**optional**)
- 1 pair yaktrax/microspikes (**optional**)
- 1-2 quick-dry synthetic shirts
- 1 medium weight fleece/synthetic/wool jacket
- 1 medium weight puffy
- 1 lightweight waterproof shell (snow) jacket
- 1 pair waterproof snow gloves
- 1 pair liner gloves (**optional**)
- 1 sun hoodie/neck gaiter/bandana (sun protection)
- 1 heavyweight synthetic or wool hat/balaclava (fleece-lined are often best)
- 1 pair sunglasses w/ strap or ski goggles
- 1 sun hat (ball cap or hat with a brim to block the sun)

### PLEASE DO NOT BRING:

- **Unnecessary toiletries** such as: shampoo/conditioner, makeup, scented lotions, perfumes, body wash, hair products, etc.
- electronic devices that connect to the internet - **including cell phones**
- Knives, lighters, any items prohibited at school

### Toiletries:

- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Small sunscreen (SPF 30+); AVOID **oxybenzone** and **octinoxate** ingredients in sunscreens
- Lip balm (with SPF)
- Small travel-sized deodorant (**optional**)
- Comb/brush, washcloth/backpacking towel (**optional**)

### Hard Gear:

- 2 wide-mouth 32oz** water bottles (Camel backs are risky - bring at least 1 hard plastic bottle for backup)
- Whistle (some backpacks have built-in whistles)
- 2 large plastic trash bags - odorless
- 2 large + 2 small Ziploc baggies
- Headlamp with extra batteries
- Plastic cup suitable for hot liquids
- Plastic bowl and utensils
- Pillowcase OR Backpacking Pillow
- Wristwatch (cannot connect to internet)
- Large Backpack with Pack Cover (minimum 65L capacity, with a snug fitting hip strap - PLEASE NOTE: We have this available to borrow. If bringing a backpack from home, [make sure it fits correctly](#))
- Sleeping Bag for Backpacking (20°F - as light/compressed as possible)
- Sleeping pad for Backpacking (bring duct tape for repairs in air sleeping pad)
- Snowshoes and poles

Looking to borrow gear? **We are able to provide sleeping bags, sleeping pads, snowshoes, trekking poles, large backpacks, and pack covers.** These items will be checked out to your student on the morning of departure. **Other gear may be available in very limited quantities;** if you have an additional need please email Christina Shores @ [cshores1@dcsdk12.org](mailto:cshores1@dcsdk12.org).

## **Gear Check Information**

Gear check will take place at a scheduled time before your child's departure. During this process, students will fully unpack their bags so our Adventure Ed team can conduct a physical inspection. This serves two important purposes:

1. **Quality check** – Our team ensures that each item is appropriate and sufficient for the specific trip.
2. **Completeness check** – Students can identify anything that is missing so it can be brought before departure.

When preparing for gear check, it is important that **students take the lead in packing**. This way, they know exactly what gear they have, where it is located, and how to access it during the trip.

Please plan to send **everything on the gear list** to gear check—including what your child plans to wear on departure day and all daypack items.

After gear check, students may leave their gear at school until departure day. Any missing items can be brought later in a separate bag. On the morning of departure, students will have time to repack, change clothes, fill water bottles, and take care of any last details.

## **Borrowing Gear**

If your child needs to borrow a sleeping bag, sleeping pad, backpack, or trekking poles, you do not need to give advanced notice. We will check these items out to your student either on the day of gear check (time permitting) or the day of departure.

## **Gear Purchase Guidelines**

If you need to purchase gear for the upcoming trip, please make sure to choose **high-quality outdoor equipment**, especially for sleeping bags, backpacks, and rain gear.

- **Sleeping bags** should match the temperature rating on the gear list, be lightweight, and compressible for easy packing.
- **Backpacks** should be sturdy, fit your child's size, and include a well-adjusted hip strap for comfort and support.
- **Rain jackets and pants** must be fully waterproof—not just water-resistant. Ponchos are not suitable for voyages.

Investing in proper gear helps keep students safe, comfortable, and ready to enjoy the adventure.