

# General packing information for Voyagers Canoe Trip

**Note: please adhere to these recommendations as your comfort and safety depend on the gear you bring. Don't bring more or less than is essential. The proper gear and clothing will help bring you through the canoe trip with a smile on your face, especially when it rains.**

Please pack all your gear in waterproof containers for the trip. Your options include: Dry bags (expensive, yet reliable), waterproof five gallon buckets (inexpensive and reliable), and/or a camp provided barrel. Please use these or a similar watertight container to pack your gear for the trip. Trash bags and zip lock bags alone are not acceptable containers for gear.

We will be traveling and camping in a wilderness environment with our evenings spent at primitive campsites along the waters edge (no showers or toilets). We will provide instructions for basic toileting needs. Please call Camp Hebron if you have questions.

If you need to bring lotions or liquids, please make sure that they are in plastic bottles. Do not bring any glass containers.

Wool and fleece clothing are best on a canoe trip as they continue to insulate even when wet. Wool is often less expensive than fleece and can be found at most surplus, Goodwill, thrift or Salvation Army stores.

When you spend any amount of time in the outdoors it commonly rains so be prepared with a good quality rain suit, thin plastic ponchos are horribly inadequate and beware of things that say "water-resistant" which do not hold up to a good rain. Test your rain gear in the shower! (Seriously, its fun)

## Packing your things

### *Camp provided barrel*

We will provide each camper with a barrel that has the capability to hold all of your gear for the week. You will need to bring a large trash bag to line the barrel. The barrels are watertight and will protect your gear. You are welcome to use any of your own containers as long as they are approved by your trip leader. You may still wish to bring a bucket to use as a seat for the evenings around the campfire. More instructions for packing the barrel will be given upon arrival at camp.

### *Bucket method of packing*

You will probably need 2-3 buckets per person: one for your sleeping bag, one for clothing, and one for putting both your miscellaneous items and eating utensils. This is by far the most economical means of packing for your canoe trip short of borrowing a camp barrel.

When packing your sleeping bag, first make sure the bucket is clean and is free of anything that may puncture or tear the plastic liner. Place a heavy-duty trash bag (4-6mm thick if you can find them) inside the clean bucket then stuff your sleeping bag inside the plastic bag in the bucket. Compress the sleeping bag by rolling it first or by just stuffing it into a stuff sack and then place it into the bucket. Be sure not to rip or tear the liner in the process of stuffing your sleeping bag into the bucket. Using a stuff sack for your sleeping bag will greatly reduce the potential of damaging the liner. Once the sleeping bag is inside the bucket you can then tie shut the plastic bag to seal it or use a piece of string or shock cord, then finish by putting the lid on the bucket.

Packing the rest of your gear should follow a similar process. First place a plastic liner in the bucket and put your stuff in. I have found that using small stuff sacks to separate types of clothing is helpful and saves you from digging to the bottom of the bucket every time you want something. Remember to pack the items you may want first towards the top of the bucket. Once you have all your items in the bag try to compress the contents and remove excess air. Then seal the bag by twisting the bag and doubling it over on itself then tie it shut with a piece of small diameter rope or bungee. In your clothing bucket pack your rain jacket and pants on top of the sealed trash bag so that when you go for your rain gear you will not have to break the seal on the bag and the rest of your clothing will stay dry. You can also place an extra pair of camp shoes in a plastic bag and place it on top of the sealed clothing bag. It is also helpful to use a permanent marker and write your name on the bucket lid with a brief description (ex. **sleeping bag, clothing, miscellaneous**) so you can find easily what you are looking for when you need it.

### *Using a dry bag*

Quality dry bags can be expensive and for most people are not worth the investment for one canoe trip. If you do buy dry bags, buy quality bags that are made by reputable companies (NRS, Sea to Summit, Seal Line, etc). We have seen our share of poorly made bags and they just don't do the job. You will need 1-2 bags per person depending on how much gear you have and how big a bag you buy. If you use dry bags you will need to pack a little differently but still using the idea of putting the things you will need first at the top. Start by placing your sleeping bag on the bottom then your sleeping pad. This can either go horizontally or vertically on the side of your bag depending on how much space you have and how bulky your sleeping bag is. Next add your clothing bags followed by the items you may want to use first at the campsite (like your dry pair of shoes or a light jacket). You should also place your eating utensils somewhere near the top but take care that the utensils do not puncture the sidewall of the bag. Once sealed up for the day, a dry bag should not need to be opened until we have arrived at a campsite. As for your rain gear, water bottle, sunscreen and small must-have items, they can be placed in a small duffle bag that has had a plastic bag placed in it first.

In addition to the gear list you may bring a full set of clean clothing to be left at camp. After the trip you will be able to change into these clean clothes before traveling home. You should also include a towel and shower kit (soap and shampoo). Please place all these items in a separate bag from the gear you plan to take on the trip with you (a small duffle bag or plastic bag will be fine).

If you choose to bring along fishing gear, we recommend the compact, telescopic style of pole for easy packing. It is your responsibility to obtain your appropriate Fishing license.

# Gear List For Voyagers

See other sheet for packing instructions

## PERSONALS

- ❑ Sleeping bag (should fit in a 5 gal. bucket)
- ❑ Sleeping pad (Backpacking type)
- ❑ Sunscreen (**spf 15 or higher**)
- ❑ Inexpensive sunglasses with keeper strap
- ❑ Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, personal hygiene products, etc.)
- ❑ small towel
- ❑ Small flashlight (with extra new batteries)
- ❑ Whistle on a lanyard
- ❑ Sturdy plastic cup, plastic bowl, and metal spoon, fork, knife (no flimsy disposable type)
- ❑ Insect repellent: Ben's, Deep Woods Off or similar (NO aerosol cans)
- ❑ Personal first aid kit: 10 Band-Aids, 1 roll of 1/2" adhesive tape, 1" roll of gauze, alcohol wipes or ointment, chapstick, all in a ziplock baggie
- ❑ Water bottle(s) (one liter wide-mouth soda bottles work well)
- ❑ Eye glasses with keeper strap and one backup pair **OR** corrective lenses with a backup pair and solution
- ❑ 2 extra heavy duty garbage bags
- ❑ Small Bible
- ❑ Wide brimmed hat

## OPTIONAL

- ❑ Small camera and film
- ❑ Fishing gear & license
- ❑ Small pillow
- ❑ Small/compact stool or lawn chair
- ❑ Small notebook and pencil
- ❑ Folding pocket knife
- ❑ Bandanna
- ❑ Extra straps or mini carabineer clips

## CAMP HEBRON WILL PROVIDE

- ❑ Tents
- ❑ Canoes, Life jackets, paddles
- ❑ Food & snacks
- ❑ Transportation to the river and back to camp
- ❑ Cooking gear and stoves
- ❑ Barrel for storing personal gear

## CLOTHING

- ❑ 2 pairs shorts (quick drying nylon recommended)
- ❑ 1 light synthetic or nylon pants
- ❑ 3-4 short sleeved t-shirts (50/50 blend preferred, the more synthetic the better)
- ❑ 1 medium weight long sleeved shirt or sweater (must be wool or fleece or insulating long underwear- **NO COTTON**)
- ❑ Rain gear (In the outdoors, always anticipate rain so have good rain gear. A quality rain jacket is a must and pants are nice)

## Ponchos are not acceptable rain gear!

- ❑ River shoes should fit snugly (old sneakers/Texas) sandals must have heel straps to keep them secure
- ❑ Campsite shoes (for dry land use)
- ❑ 2 pair of socks
- ❑ 1 pair wool or synthetic socks
- ❑ 1 wool knit hat
- ❑ 3-5 sets of underwear
- ❑ Swim suit/trunks (Modest one piece suit - no bikinis)

## DO NOT BRING

- ❑ Valuables
- ❑ IPODs or media players of any type, electronic games, cell phones
- ❑ Non-prescription drugs, alcohol, tobacco
- ❑ Fixed blade knives or other weapons
- ❑ Fireworks
- ❑ Extra food or snacks, plenty of food and snacks will be provided