

## Yellowstone High Adventure Outpost Packing List 2023

“Nothing weighs nothing” - anonymous, unknown

“Ounces make pounds” - Ian Squires, Director of High Adventure

“Grams make ounces” - Collin Costello, Asst. Director of High Adventure

### Personal Gear

This is gear every scout will need to pack and manage for themselves. Wool and synthetics only. No cotton.

- Mess Kit - A bowl, Spork, and Cup are all you need here, listen to the quotes above for everything you pack.
- Water bottles, 3 liters total - We are big fans of Camelbacks, you'll want at least a 1-liter hard bottle as well though.
- Spare Socks, 2 pairs - Wool Only, your mother is going to be very cross with you if we send you back with frostbite and 20 blisters because you wore cotton socks.
- Sleepwear - We recommend a pair of gym shorts and a light t-shirt. One dedicated pair of “Vampire Socks”, only for sleeping in, can make for a welcome luxury at night.
- Ground pad - These are essential, the ground WILL be cold at night, don't suffer for your negligence. Personal preference of inflatable vs non-inflatable. Just remember if you bring an inflatable, bring a small patch kit as well.
- Sleeping Bag - A 20-30 degree bag is ideal for our purposes; you will be cold in a 45 degree on all but our warmest nights. If you know you sleep cold, bring a slightly warmer bag, make sure you fill your bag with your body and extra clothes, and keep your face out of it; if you cover your face, you are introducing moisture and only making yourself colder.
- Sleeping bag liner - If you sleep extra cold, it may be worth considering a bag liner. These help add a little extra comfort at the cost of very little weight. These are certainly optional, but a good mention.
- Rain gear - At least bring a poncho, rain pants are nice as well and pack down nicely. How to keep the contents of your bag dry will be covered in a later section of this list.
- Water and or camp shoes - Almost all of the hikes here have river crossings, you MUST wear closed-toed shoes when you cross, and you don't want to hike in wet boots.

- Hiking Boots - Waterproof and at least ankle covering is recommended. Many of the trails are rough and contain shallow stream crossings that will be done in boots. Wear your boots for a couple weeks to help break them in, your feet will thank you.
- Necessary Hygiene Products - Being in the backcountry is no excuse not to brush your teeth and hair. Make your trip nicer, be responsible, but keep this light. You can chop off the tip of a toothbrush for the true ultralight experience. Don't bring an electric brush.
- Spare Clothes, AT MOST 1 set - This is an optional extra set of clothes, either bring no extra or only one set. No jeans; long pants, long socks, long sleeves, and bring a light jacket, it's cold in the mornings.
- Flashlight - Headlamp preferred. No need to bring extra batteries, just put in a fresh set before leaving (unless you have the equivalent of a stadium in your pocket)
- Bug spray - All of our hikes are famous for their views, some of them are famous for their mosquitos. Bring bug spray, **deet free** (deet is illegal in the Park and causes severe riparian harm) and non-aerosol only, and a bug head net and gloves if you are worried about this.
- Hat, sunglasses - At high altitudes, it gets much easier to burn; protect your eyes.
- Sunscreen - Sunburns do a lot more than just make you hurt a little, wear sunscreen. Camp sits at 6,200 feet, and it only gets higher from there. The sun is much more powerful at these altitudes.
- Trekking poles - We recommend these if you've ever said the words, "my knees aren't what they used to be".
- 45-55 liter backpack for Yellowstone, 60 liters for Absoroka - There is a list of gear we can provide further down if you are missing any of this.

#### Personal Luxury Gear

These are heavier items, and as such you should really try and limit yourself to only one.

Items that just slightly enhance your experience in camp, whether by giving you more comfort, or more activity.. Some of these items include a camp chair, slippers, battery pack, pack of cards, or a book. While having an item like this can make life in camp slightly more pleasant, you spend far longer carrying these on your back than you do while in camp, so really think about if you actually need it. Please do not bring speakers to play music. Small earbuds are ok, but music cannot be listened to while hiking.

## Group Gear

Groups consist of 3-4 Scouts, and should be the same as your cook groups.

If you are arriving as part of a troop, this gear should be split up with equity, not just equality, in mind. If you are coming as a lone scout, try to keep what you can of this gear in small light containers large enough for yourself; you will be put into a group during shakedown, and you will then be able to share things among your group as necessary.

- Tent, 3-4 man - Don't forget tent stakes
- First Aid Kit - This should be kept light; bandaids, moleskin, anti-chafe powder, and not much else. Your instructor will have a large first aid kit with them, but it's nice to have your own so you can get some real-world practice (hopefully not too much) using it.
- Sharable Hygiene Products - Things that can be shared hygienically; toothpaste, sunscreen, camp soap, etc.
- Compass, astrolabe, and sextant - Just make sure you have a compass and a watch to tell time.

## Group Gear We Provide

This is a list of what we will provide for each cook group, split like the rest of your group gear.

There is no need for you to bring these things, this list is just here so you can get an idea of what you will have in your bag.

- Cooking gear - This is a pot, lid, pan, spatula, spices, bear bag or vault (this is for hikes with limited tree cover), and channel lock pliers.
- Dromedary - This is to hold untreated river water in dry stretches of the hike, these aren't common but this is an important item nonetheless.
- Map - Part of the educational course of this program is how to properly use a map, but due to limitations, only the troop leader will have a map.
- Cat Hole Shovel - You are preparing to embark on an adventure through a nearly pristine landscape. As part of this adventure, you will poop. Dealing with that can be complicated, but it doesn't have to be. What we recommend at YHAO is something called the "backcountry bidet". You dig yourself a hole, do your business, use a lucky leaf/rock/stick for the gross part, wash all dirtied surfaces with a little water and camp soap (be careful not to cross-contaminate after this), and finally fill your hole back in and give it a quick stir. This is the best way to do this, for you and the wilderness. If you use toilet paper (Don't) you have to pack all of it out with you. If you make the regrettable decision to bring it, we recommend using baking soda in whatever container you choose for storing the used wipes (Just don't,

for everyone's sake), and think about where you're going to store that container when you sleep (they are definitely a smellable. For you and the bears).

- Tarps - just a light tarp so you don't have to cook in the rain.
- MSI Whisperlite Stove - This includes the stove, fuel pump, and gas can. This uses liquid fuel (White Gas) so there is no need to bring your Jet Boil.

#### Gear Available to be Borrowed from YHAO

If you need to borrow gear, we would very much appreciate it if you could get a count of what you need to us early so we can make sure we have enough for everyone. You can send an email to the High Adventure Director, Ian Squires, AT LEAST two weeks ahead of time, otherwise, there can be no promises made on whether or not we will have the gear for you to borrow.

- Tents, 4-man Black Diamond - supply limited
- Ground pads
- Water bottles
- Ponchos
- Compass - supply limited
- Sleeping bags - supply limited
- Hats
- Sunglasses
- Backpacks

We look forward to seeing you all soon,

Brandon Squires, Director of Backpacking & Associate Conservation Officer

Yellowstone High Adventure Outpost

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