



CAMPER PACKING LIST

GENERAL PACKING LIST

- Sleeping bag, pillow
- Raingear
- Swimsuit, towel
- Underwear, socks, pajamas
- Shirts
- Shorts, pants
- Jacket, sweater, sweatshirt
- Hat, sunscreen
- Shoes (see note below)
- Toothbrush, toothpaste
- Toiletries
- Water bottle
- Flashlight
- Fishing tackle (optional)
- Prescription medications (must be in original packaging)

NOTES ON PACKING

Shoes: Ideally, send two pairs of shoes. At least one pair of shoes must be closed-toed. Skate shoes are not an ideal choice, as they offer poor ankle support and minimal traction. We recommend last year's gym runners. Rubber boots are generally not very useful at camp - better to have a pair of shoes that it's okay to get muddy.

Warm clothing: Cotton clothing is good for warm, sunny days, but wool, polyester, and nylon are better options for cold and wet weather. If possible, please pack a mix of both.

Labeling: Please label every item your camper brings, including luggage, with their full name. The last name is more helpful than first name for getting lost items back to their owners.

Luggage: We do not recommend using garbage bags as they are not durable. If you must use them, clearly mark the camper's name on each bag and double-bag the contents.

Do not bring: valuables (e.g. jewelry), electric and electronic items (e.g. music players, phones), or knives.

PACKING FOR CANOE TRIPS

All MacKinnon Island sessions (Girls 1-3, Classic Girls, Boys 1-3, Classic Boys, Fuel) include a canoe trip. For most campers, this is just a one or two-night trip. Senior campers (age 14-16) at Classic Girls and Classic Boys go on a three or four-night trip. For all of these shorter trips, we can provide the essential gear for campers who don't have their own, but it is helpful if you send what you can (e.g. dry bags).

For tripping sessions (i.e. Voyageur, Expedition, Challenge, LIT), campers should bring the equipment listed below in addition to the items in the general packing list above. The specialized items can be found at MEC or Wilderness Supply (where kids going to camp get a 15% discount on most gear).

- **Dry bag:** a SealLine or similar bag, minimum 30L. It needs to be able to accommodate all the camper's personal gear including their sleeping bag.
- **Hat:** a tilley or baseball cap that can be dunked in the water to cool down the head. Visors and bandanas are not sufficient.
- **Water bottle:** the best bottle is a 1L Nalgene. For river trips (Expedition, Challenge, LIT) participants must have at least one Nalgene and we recommend bringing two.
- **Rain jacket and pants:** please keep in mind that this is a piece of personal safety equipment, not a comfort item. It is important that it fits properly and will last through the demands of a canoe trip.
- **Sweater:** wool sweater or fleece jacket.
- **Long underwear:** lightweight wool or polyester, not cotton.
- **Pants:** jeans are not recommended for any canoe trips and are prohibited on the longer trips. Dense cotton like denim, once wet, does not dry on a trip. Thinner cotton pants (e.g. dockers, khakis) or leggings are good. On sunny days campers should wear pants rather than shorts while paddling to avoid burning, and in hot weather loose-fitting light-coloured pants are best. Specialized quick-dry pants available.
- **Two pairs of shoes:** one pair is worn during the day and will get very wet and muddy on portages, and may stay wet for the whole trip; the other pair is packed in your dry bag and worn at site in the evenings. Both the wet pair and dry pair should be closed-toed shoes. The dry shoes need to have closed toes for sitting around the campfire, so sandals are not sufficient. The wet shoes need to be able to protect the feet and ankles on portages, so sandals and lightweight wetshoes are not sufficient; they should be well-built runners or hiking boots. Be prepared that the wet pair might be ready for the garbage by the end of the trip. Do not bring rubber boots or crocs.
- **Wool socks:** at least 3 pairs. Thick wool socks like the type sold at Mark's Work Warehouse or smart wool are the ideal sock for canoe tripping, because you may spend all day wearing wet shoes and the wool wicks the moisture away from the foot.
- **Headlamp:** a flashlight will suffice but a headlamp (e.g. Petzl Tikka) is ideal.

Optional:

- **Knife:** a small knife or multitool (e.g. Swiss Army, Leatherman) can be useful, but only send it if you trust your child to use it unsupervised. Knives are not permitted while campers are on MacKinnon or Cash Island.
- **Glasses strap:** a good idea on the river trips, because it's easy to lose your glasses if your boat flips in a rapid.
- **Bug net:** This is very optional; it's unnecessary for shorter trips and lake trips. On river trips its usefulness will depend on time of year, how bad a year for bugs it is, and the participant's tolerance for bugs.