Camping Equipment – Level 3

There are a few items that we have not covered yet. The items mentioned below are necessities to make your camping experience better.

Camp Tables – Usually the campsites all have picnic tables but some of these tables either cannot be moved to where you would want it or have seen better days. It is always good to bring along a table so that you can use it for cooking or eating. There are some nice folding tables that pack well and are very stable. Some of these tables actually pack into the space of a folding chair. You will need to assess how much room you have as these table can take up valuable space.

Folding Chairs – Outside of a picnic table you will not have any place to sit at you camp site. There are many types of folding chairs available. The best chairs for camping are also called soccer chairs. They have a metal frame and a canvas seat and back. These basic chairs are very comfortable and versatile. They come in many different styles. The basic chair with the back and seat can be complimented with arm rests and even a foot support. These chairs fold up nicely and pack away in a bag with a closure string making them compact when packed up. The bags often have shoulder strap to make carrying the chair from place to place easy.

Cooking Supplies – This is a very big category but it does not need to be over whelming. A basic set of pots and pans can be found at rummage sales and will save you some money in the process. Rummage or estate sales are also a good place to pick up the cooking utensils and eating supplies. I offer these alternatives rather than using your good pots, pans and utensils. I also like keeping all my camping supplies in one spot usually in one or two boxes or Rubbermade type containers.

Food / Water / Snacks – Everyone eats more when they are outside all day. They are more active and the fresh air helps to increase the appetite. You will need to plan accordingly and bring along extra food, water and snacks for everyone.

Clothes – You will need to bring along clothes for the weather and the activities you are planning. You may want to bring along extra clothes that could be used for sleeping in or extra day clothes. You might be caught out on the weather or it may get colder at night than what was planned for so extra clothes are always a good thing to pack.

Personal Hygeine / Toiletries – Toothpaste, toothbrush, wash clothes, towels, soap and more, these things need to be packed and brought along.

Now you are saying we need help in order to remember everything you have told us to bring camping to make our outing a better experience. We have put together a camping checklist that you can use. This checklist is geared toward a weekend outing. The next 4 pages include the checklist. There are spaces at the end so that you can add things bicycles and helmets as most parks are easily navigated by bicycle and bicycles get you out of the car and out in nature.

Camping Equipment Checklist

Standard Camping Equipment

____ Tent - Spring / Summer Camping: Standard Tent
____ Tent - Fall / Winter Camping: 3 or 4 Season Tent
____ Tarps
____ Screen House or Sun Shelter
____ Camping Table
____ Folding Chair(s)
____ Cooler
____ Sleeping Bag
____ Air Mattress or Camping Mat (pump for air mattress)
____ Blanket
____ Pillow
____ Lantern / Flashlight (extra mantles for lanterns / bulbs and batteries for flashlights)

Tools

____ Camping Axe (Hatchet) / Standard Axe / Maul / Sledgehammer & Splitting Wedge (depending on your specific needs)
____ Handsaw
____ Multi Purpose Screwdriver or Multi-tool
____ Pocket Knife
____ Hammer
____ Nails
____ Rope & Twine (Good for make-shift clotheslines) *Avoid the cheap yellow poly rope, it will not hold a knot.
____ Shovel

Cooking Equipment

____ Small Propane or Charcoal BBQ
____ Propane or Liquid Gas Stove / Cooking Grill / Grate (for campfire cooking)
____ Propane Cylinders, Liquid Gas or Charcoal
____ Pots & Pans
____ Utensils (Cooking and Serving: spoon, spatula, fork, tongs, hand mitts etc.)
____ Wash Basin
____ Can Opener
____ Coffee Pot
____ Cutting Board
____ Kitchen Knife

Food & Water

____ Condiments: BBQ Sauce / Ketchup / Mustard / Mayo
____ Butter
____ Cooking Oil
____ Cereal
____ Bread
____ Packaged Bagels
____ Packaged Cold Cuts / Cheese
____ Beef, Chicken, Pork, Fish or Dehydrated Foods
____ Eggs (use a plastic egg container for real eggs or bring powdered eggs)
____ Bacon
____ Sausage
____ Pancake Mix
____ Canned Goods
____ Fruit
____ Water - 1 gallon of water per person, per day (*2 gallons per day in hot climates)
____ Milk (in plastic container)
____ Soda / Juice / Other Drinks
____ Coffee / Tea / Hot Chocolate
____ Chips / Pretzels / Popcorn
____ Snack Bars / Dried Fruit
____ Granola Bars

Personal Hygeine / Toiletries

____ Toilet Paper
____ Napkins
____ Paper Towels
____ Biodegradable Camping Soap (can be used for washing pots, pans, dishes, hair and body)
____ Sponge
____ Toothbrush & Toothpaste
____ Collapsible Water Bucket
____ Collapsible Water Carrier
____ Feminine Products

Clothing / Shoes / Linen

____ Jeans
____ Shorts
____ Shirts
____ Bathing Suit
____ Sweatpants
____ Socks
____ Underwear
____ Sandals
____ Sneakers
____ Boots
____ Hand Towel
____ Bathing Towel
____ Sheet (useful for using inside of sleeping bag to reduce moisture)

Misc

____ Emergency Rain Poncho
____ Heavy Duty Aluminum Foil
____ Can Opener / Bottle Opener / Cork Screw
____ Paper Plates / Cups or Washable Plates & Cups
____ Tablecloth / Clips
____ Camera / Film
____ Batteries
____ Tarp(s) (good for placing under tents to reduce moisture and for make-shift shelters)
____ Sunscreen
____ Bug Spray
____ Lighter / Waterproof Matches
____ Newspaper
____ Extra Tent Stakes (cheap plastic stakes work well)
____ "Ziploc" bags (handy to keep small electronics dry and for storing meat or chicken away from the rest of your food in the cooler)
____ Garbage Bags (*many natural camping areas require that you take **ALL** of your garbage with you! **Carry In - Carry Out!**)

List additional or personal items you may want or need to bring:

____ _____
____ _____
____ _____
____ _____
____ _____
____ _____
____ _____
____ _____

Camping Tips and Tricks:

(1) *We suggest that you use a re-sealable container (Rubbermaid or Sterlite type) for storing food and cooking utensils to avoid having your food spoiled by ants or animals. You may want to consider storing your container in a separate tent or vehicle to keep away any "unwanted guests".

(2) Block ice works best for extended cooling. It usually lasts for 2-3 days in a standard cooler, 4-5 days in an extreme 5 day cooler. Split the block in half and put a block on each side of the cooler. Add your food and drinks, then fill in the remaining spaces with cubed ice. Keep your cooler in the shade if possible.