

FOOD¹

- S'mores!²
- Ice
- Reusable ice packs
- Eggs³
- Lunch meat
- Bread
- PB & J
- Oatmeal
- Bacon
- Hot dogs
- Hamburger
- Buns
- Coffee
- Your call...

CLOTHES⁴

- Socks
- Underwear
- Shirts
- Base layer
- Fleece
- Shorts
- Rain gear
- Long pants
- Swimsuits
- Hats
- Hiking boots
- Sandals

LITTLE KIDS' STUFF

- Baby backpack
- Portable high chair
- Baby carrier
- Portable potty
- Pack and Play
- Diapers, etc.

HYGIENE

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Soap
- Sunscreen
- Wipes
- Deodorant
- Chapstick
- Sanitary items
- Prescription meds
- Glasses and contacts
- Hairbrush
- Shammy or towel
- Washcloth
- First-aid kit⁵
- Bug spray
- Small shovel⁶

SHELTER

- Tent(s)
- Tarps
- Sleeping bags
- Sleeping pads
- Pillows
- Mats⁷
- Lantern⁸
- Mallet
- Hatchet

FIRE⁹

- Camp stove
- Fuel for stove
- Firewood¹⁰
- Matches
- Lighter fluid or starter

KITCHEN

- Coffee method¹¹
- Water jugs¹²
- Pans
- Utensils
- Cups
- Bowls
- Dish soap
- Plastic dish bins¹³
- Paper towels or dishrag
- Plates
- Sponges
- Scouring pads
- Hand wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Garbage bags
- Zip-Loc bags
- Cooler

OTHER

- Flashlights
- Pocket knife or multi-tool
- Headlamps
- Batteries
- Lightweight day pack
- Camp chairs

FUN

- Fishing stuff
- Swimsuits
- Floats
- Goggles
- Sand toys
- Frisbee
- Soccer ball
- Baseball stuff
- Campfire stories

1 Food is maybe the absolute best part of camping. Do not neglect. Forcing your loved ones to eat cans of gray stew is a missed opportunity. Plus cans are heavy.

2 The only non-negotiable item on the food list. Graham crackers + toasted marshmallows + Hershey bars, in case you are a complete novice. Actually, if you don't know what these are you shouldn't go camping. Quit reading. Big marshmallows preferably.

3 Still in the carton is OK. The bigger eggs the chickens are making these days don't usually fit in the little plastic yellow egg protector containers.

4 There is a saying that "cotton kills" in the outdoors. You might find this statement a little dramatic for a weekend camping with your kids, however, it's really important. Buy quick-drying high tech fabrics and/or wool whenever possible.

5 At the very least you should have band aids, antibiotic ointment, pain reliever, Benadryl, tweezers, etc.

6 For pooping in a hole and burying it. If this horrifies you then you should probably stay at a campground with facilities.

7 For outside the tents so you don't track mud in.

8 Either battery-powered (bring extra!) or kerosene with mantles

9 Be sure to have "the fire talk" with your kids before they start their sister or the forest on fire.

10 Bring firewood with you if you can. It's usually expensive at campgrounds and convenience stores.

11 So you can have something to look forward to in case things aren't going well.

12 Just in case, fill them up before you leave home.

13 For washing dishes. Should have two. One for soapy water and one for clean water to rinse. Dump your gray water in the bathroom toilet if there is a toilet.