

NORTHERN TIER — PACKING CHECKLIST

Scouting 92x • Wilderness Canoe Trek • from the Northern Tier Advisor's Planning Guide



REQUIRED CLOTHING

No cotton on the trail. Everything should dry fast.

- ☐ **1 pair Boots ★**
REQUIRED: full ankle coverage, rugged stitched or vulcanized sole, drainage at the instep. Must NOT be waterproof. Crews with inadequate footwear must buy boots at the Trading Post before launching — no exceptions. See the boot guide at scouts92x.com/northern-tier/boots.html
- ☐ **1 pair Camp shoes**
Closed-toe, closed-heel, hard soled — lightweight sneakers work.
- ☐ **1 Rain jacket with hood ★**
Must be genuinely waterproof, not water resistant. Ponchos are NOT allowed — they are dangerous in a capsized.
- ☐ **2 Shirts ★**
Long-sleeved and lightweight.
- ☐ **2 Pants ★**
Quick dry. Zip-off legs recommended.
- ☐ **3 pair Socks ★**
Synthetic or wool. NO cotton.
- ☐ **2 pair Underwear ★**
Synthetic, quick dry recommended.
- ☐ **1 Hat ★**
Broad brimmed or baseball style.
- ☐ **1 Lightweight fleece jacket ★**
- ☐ **1 Knit / stocking cap ★**
Nights get cold, even in July.
- ☐ **1 set Clean, dry travel clothes**
For wearing on base and traveling to and from Northern Tier. There is NO laundry at base.
- ☐ **1 Flip flops or sandals**
Shower use only — not permitted on the trail.
- ☐ **1 Belt or suspenders ★**
- ☐ **1 Scout uniform**
Field or activity uniform, worn on base. Encouraged for dinner and evening programs.

REQUIRED PERSONAL GEAR

All of this gets packed into the crew's portage packs.

- ☐ **1 Sleeping bag**
Compact, synthetic, lightweight, rated to 35°F, with a compression stuff sack.
- ☐ **1 Waterproof stuff sack / dry bag ★**
25–30 liter, for clothing and gear.
- ☐ **1 Sleeping pad ★**
Closed cell or self-inflating foam.
- ☐ **1–2 Camp towel ★**
Bandanna, buff or synthetic camp towel.
- ☐ **1 Toothbrush ★**
- ☐ **1 Mess kit ★**
Plastic or metal: 12 oz bowl, 8–12 oz cup or mug, spoon or spork.
- ☐ **1 Water bottle ★**
1 liter, wide mouth, with a carabiner-style clip.
- ☐ **1 Headlamp ★**
Pack spare batteries.
- ☐ **1 Whistle**
- ☐ **1 Lip balm ★**
- ☐ **1 Sunglasses ★**
With a keeper strap — things that fall in the lake are gone.
- ☐ **2 Prescription glasses**
If needed, with a keeper strap. Bring a spare pair.
- ☐ **2 supplies Personal medications**
If needed. Split into two supplies carried in separate locations.
- ☐ **— Personal toiletries**
- ☐ **1 Bathing towel**
For showers on base.

OPTIONAL PERSONAL GEAR

Nice to have, but every ounce goes on your shoulders at the next portage.

- ☐ **1 Camera**
With extra batteries and a waterproof box. A crew camera beats a phone.
- ☐ **1 Head net ★**
For mosquitos. You will want this.
- ☐ **1 set Long underwear ★**
For cool nights and mornings.
- ☐ **1 Rain pants ★**
Can double as a second pair of pants.
- ☐ **1 Book ★**
For reading.
- ☐ **1 Journal ★**
For writing down the trip while it's still fresh.

REQUIRED CREW GEAR

Shared across the crew — coordinate so you don't end up with six of everything.

- ☐ **1 per canoe Small pocket knife ★**
3–4 total per crew.
- ☐ **1 per canoe Small compass ★**
3–4 total per crew.
- ☐ **1 per canoe Map case ★**
About \$17 each. 3–4 total per crew.
- ☐ **1 per canoe Set of maps ★**
DO NOT buy maps before arrival — staff help pick the right set for your route. About \$8 each; 2–4 maps per canoe.
- ☐ **1–2 Sunscreen ★**
SPF 15 or greater. No aerosol cans.
- ☐ **1–2 Bug repellent ★**
High DEET content recommended. No aerosol cans.
- ☐ **1 tube Toothpaste ★**
One per crew is enough.
- ☐ **1 bottle Medicated foot powder ★**
Your feet stay wet all day. Trust the powder.
- ☐ **1 Crew first aid kit**
Full contents listed below — must be well stocked.
- ☐ **1 Lock**
For the base storage locker, if your crew is using one.
- ☐ **1 Repair kit**
Multi-tool, duct tape, small sewing kit.

OPTIONAL CREW GEAR

- ☐ **1–2 Fishing poles**
Equipment can be checked out at base. Crews are allowed 1–2 poles.
- ☐ **— Fishing tackle ★**
Limited tackle available to check out. Bring your favorites — lightweight and compact.
- ☐ **1 Binoculars**
- ☐ **1 Fillet knife ★**

CREW FIRST AID KIT

Every crew must arrive with a complete, thoroughly stocked kit. You will be asked about it at check-in.

- ☐ **assorted Adhesive bandages**
- ☐ **— Knuckle and fingertip bandages**
- ☐ **— Steri-strips**
- ☐ **— Moleskin / molefoam**
Blisters are the #1 trail problem. Bring plenty.
- ☐ **— Second skin**
- ☐ **— Gauze pads, 3" x 3"**
- ☐ **1 Adhesive tape, 1" x 15'**

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- ☐ 1 Roll of gauze, 1" or 2"
- ☐ 1 Elastic bandage, 4"
- ☐ 1 Oval eye patch
- ☐ 1 Antibiotic ointment
- ☐ — Disposable alcohol wipes
- ☐ 1 Triangular bandage
- ☐ 50 tabs Acetaminophen
- ☐ 50 tabs Ibuprofen
- ☐ — Antacids
- ☐ — Antihistamine
Both tablet and liquid form.
- ☐ 1 Steroid cream
- ☐ 1 Anaphylaxis kit
If needed by anyone in the crew.
- ☐ — Throat lozenges
- ☐ — Cold caplets
- ☐ 1 Small bar soap
- ☐ 1 Lip balm
- ☐ 2 Thermometers
- ☐ 1 Scissors
- ☐ 1 Tweezers
- ☐ — Safety pins
- ☐ 1 Side cutters
For fish hooks. It happens.
- ☐ — Nitrile or latex gloves
- ☐ 1 Barrier device for resuscitation
- ☐ 1 Sunscreen
- ☐ 1 First aid manual
- ☐ — Disposable face masks

DOCUMENTS TO BRING (PAPER COPIES)

Base internet is reserved for operations — print everything before you leave home.

- ☐ 1 Annual Health and Medical Record
Complete, signed, and current within 12 months of the trip.
- ☐ 1 Insurance card copy
- ☐ 1 Swim classification record
Scouting Swimmer classification for every participant.
- ☐ — Certification cards (adults)
Wilderness First Aid, CPR, Safety Afloat, Safe Swim Defense, Hazardous Weather, Safeguarding Youth.

MONEY & EXTRAS

- ☐ ~\$150 Trading Post spending money
Average spend per participant on gear, souvenirs and snacks.
- ☐ 1 Minnesota fishing license
Required age 16+. Under 16 can fish under a single adult's license, but the catch counts against that adult's limit. Buy online BEFORE the trip — Northern Tier cannot sell licenses.

LEAVE AT HOME

These are not allowed on the trail. Don't pack them.

- ☐ X SPOT messengers / emergency beacons
Northern Tier provides all emergency communication devices. Yours gets locked up before launch.
- ☐ X Clip-in or strap-in canoe chairs
They damage the seats and make portaging harder. A standard Crazy Creek style camp chair is fine.

- ☐ X Electronic music, game or video devices
You're going to the wilderness. Enjoy it.
- ☐ X Rolling luggage
The trail to the cabins is rugged. Backpack or duffel only.
- ☐ X Firearms, archery equipment, fireworks
Prohibited at Northern Tier.
- ☐ X Alcohol, illegal drugs
Immediate send-home.
- ☐ ■ Cell phones
Strongly discouraged. Permitted only as a camera — keep it in airplane mode. There is essentially no reception.
- ☐ ■ Aerosol cans
No aerosol sunscreen or bug spray.
- ☐ ■ Fresh food
Special-diet participants bringing their own food: it must all be prepackaged and shelf stable.