

Buying Camping Supplies

Sports Chalet and Big 5 Sporting Goods are your best bet for most of your supplies. The La Cañada Sports Chalet store also carries some Official Boy Scout supplies, including uniform parts. Recreational Equipment (REI) and the Scout Shops tend to be more expensive. Wal-Mart and Rite Aid also carry inexpensive camping odds-and-ends.

Sleeping Bag

After footwear problems, the next biggest cause of a bad camping experience is being cold at night in bed. One of your most important purchases will be your sleeping bag. Our summer camp is located in a valley near Lake Arrowhead that is above 5,000 ft. It can be quite cold overnight at summer camp, even in August when we go there. Get a good quality bag with a 20° temperature rating and you will be prepared for any outing that the Troop might undertake. Also buy a “stuff sack” so that your sleeping bag will be easy to pack. *Sports Chalet is a good place to look for a quality sleeping bag.*

Mattress Pad and Tarp

You will be more comfortable sleeping on a roll-up mattress pad than on the cold ground. Be sure that your pad has straps to keep it rolled-up. *Big 5 Sporting Goods is a good place to get mattress pads.* Also get a small, inexpensive plastic tarp. It will have many uses, but primarily it will keep your sleeping gear dry if the ground is wet. *Harbor Freight Supply in Pasadena has tarps really cheap and Big 5 is just a block away.*

Water Bottle

Get a plastic water bottle or canteen that you can carry with you. After each camping trip, fill it, and then add a few drops of bleach to sterilize it. Rinse it thoroughly.

Mess Kit

You must bring your own eating utensils (knife, fork, and spoon), cup, plate and bowl for campouts.

Personal First Aid Kit

Start with an inexpensive commercial kit that has a nylon bag, and then add the missing items required for a Scout 1st Aid Kit. When your kit is ready, be sure to get signed-off for *2nd Class Requirement 2b*.

Laundry Bag

Keep your dirty laundry separate from the rest of your clothes with an old pillow case or small mesh bag that you can buy at most camping supply stores.

Pocket Knife

DO NOT buy a hunting knife. Get a small pocketknife like a Swiss Army Knife or Boy Scout Pocketknife (*Item #WW01008*). Consider getting a Boy Scout nylon belt holder for your pocketknife (*Item #WW01087*). You may bring your pocketknife to summer camp or Troop campouts, but you may not use your pocketknife until you receive knife, axe and saw training and receive your Totin' Chip card.

Compass

Get an inexpensive, flat, rectangular, see-through map-type compass with the rotating top.

Backpack

Get a fanny-pack or a small lightweight backpack for day hikes and carrying your supplies (i.e. snacks, water, etc.) Having some kind of easy to carry pack will make life easier when you attend merit badge classes at summer camp.