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Camping Checklist

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Camping Gear

Tent	Make sure you have all the stakes, ropes, poles, etc. Most tents come with lousy stakes that bend after the first few uses - I buy 'industrial strength' stakes at my local hardware store.
Ground Cloth or Tarp	You should always have a two or more tarps to go with your tent.
Tent Carpet	A piece of used or remnant carpet, cut to fit your tent floor, makes for a comfortable tent experience.
Sleeping Bags	Make sure that you get sleeping bags that are designed for the climate that you normally will be camping in.
Fleece Sleeping Bag Liner	Not only does this add warmth to a sleeping bag, it helps keep your sleeping bag clean. it's easier to wash a bag liner than it is to wash the whole sleeping bag.
Canteen	
Blankets	
Inflatable Cushions	For under the sleeping bags.
Pillows	Coats work great if you're in a pinch for space.

Camping Lanterns	We use the battery operated kind. They are not as bright as gas lamps, but are much safer with a small child and can be used in the tent without fear. There are also very capable rechargeable and solar powered options now available.
Camp Stove	Make sure to bring fuel.
Propane Grill	
Cast Iron Dutch Oven	Perfect for Chili!
Charcoal and Starter Chimney or Lighter Fluid	I recommend a starter chimney instead of using lighter fluid
Long Handle Pick Ax	
Bandanna	
Cooler	
Backpacks	Include ones for the kids - Why carry snacks for everyone? Let the kids pack and carry what they want to bring (they might want to bring less stuff next time).
Portable Radio	Great for entertainment and severe weather bulletins!
Fishing License and fishing gear	

Camping Basics

Flashlights with Batteries	Solar powered and rechargeable options have really improved
Wooden Matches and a Lighter	It is a good idea to put the matches in a plastic bag to keep them dry

Basic Tools	Phillips head and slot head screwdrivers, a hammer, and a camp knife are a must. If you know anything about car maintenance add to this basic list.
Fire Extinguisher	It may sit in your trunk for years or you might find yourself putting out an engine fire like I did a few years ago.
First Aid Kit	
Sewing Kit	Scissors, thread, a few needles and safety pins will do it.
Duct Tape	No explanation necessary!
Dish Soap	Please use an environmentally friendly soap. Especially if camping near water.
Sponge or Dishcloth	
Rope	
Swiss Army Knife	Or something comparable
Folding Multi-Purpose Tool	
1 Cup Per Camper	
Roll of Trash Bags	Great for packing up wet gear, dirty laundry, dirty dishes, and trash.
5 Gallon Buckets	Can be used for water, trash cans and they are great to sit on.

Toiletries

Toothpaste	
Toothbrushes	
Dental Floss	
Mouthwash or Breath Mints	
Shampoo	
Hair Conditioner	

Metal Mirror	For shaving, hair combing, or "What do I look like today?"
Toilet Paper and a Small Shovel	Just in case you can't find a rest room!
Quarters for the Showers	
Hair Combs and/or Brushes	
Hand Soap	I find the anti-bacterial soaps very reassuring on camping trips
Sun Screen	
Bug Repellent	
Skin Lotion	
Shaving Accessories	Don't forget the power cord!
Tweezers	Someone is always getting a wood or glass sliver.
Aspirin or Tylenol	
Children's Tylenol	Some kid size fever reducer.
Forehead Thermometer	
Finger Nail Clippers or Nail File	
Antiperspirant	
Lip Balm	Some come with U.V. protection.
Prescription Medications	Get spares of all you can; especially allergy and asthma medications as these conditions can be worsened by changing climate and vegetation.

Camping Food Bin

Plastic Dish Pan	This keeps stuff from rolling all over in the trunk and comes in handy for dishwashing and bathing.
Paper Plates	Twice as many as you think you need. Bring plenty, they burn very well for fire starting purposes.

Can Opener	
Cup-O-Noodles	
Granola Bars	
Silverware	2x everyone in your party. Bring some regular silverware and some plastic stuff.
Napkins or Paper Towels	
Toothpicks	
Coffee (Sugar / Cream)	The makings for a good cup of coffee. Also, single serving coffee bags or tea bags
Beef Stew	
Corned Beef Hash	Great with eggs!
Canned Pie Filling	Excellent!
Bacon	Great way to wake up sleepy campers bright and early!
Ravioli	Even good cold and kids love it!
Macaroni and Cheese	Very soupy but tasty.
Baked Beans	
Soups	Pick the stuff your family likes best.
Canned Vegetables	Green beans, peas, mushrooms, corn, carrots, etc.
Canned Fruits	Pineapple, applesauce, peaches, pears, apricots, etc.
Bread	Bring a good loaf of bread.
Cheese	Cheddar or mozzarella
Sandwich Meat	
Butter	
Condiments	Almost all condiments will keep well - Just make them easy to get to.
Adult Beverages	
Kids Drinks	
Hot Dogs	Excellent food.
Box of Cereal	Cheerios, Chexs, any cereal that requires no sugar. Eat this out of a cup. It's a quick and easy breakfast.

S'more Fixings	Marshmallows, Hershey chocolate bars, and graham crackers!
Zip-Lock Storage Bags	Really handy if you hate seeing your butter floating around in the bottom of the cooler.
Aluminum Foil	
Spatula	
Cooking Utensils	A serving spoon, a pitch fork, a pair of tongs, and a good knife.
Hot Pads	
Clothes Pin	
Frying Pan	I use an old cast iron pan.

Glove Box

Car Registration	
Car Insurance Information	
Medical Insurance	Bring everyone's cards; better safe than sorry.
Travelers Check Receipts	
Camera and Film	Many cameras take strange batteries - bring a spare!
Cell Phone and Charger	Make sure you turn your phone off if you do not have cell service at the campground. Most cell phones will burn through the battery quickly while searching for service. Turn the phone on as you approach a town or city.
Bring a Book	If you read, bring something. You never know where you'll be waiting.
Your Wallet	
Your Drivers License	Obvious, but please make sure!

Your AAA Card	If you don't have one, I recommend you get one. Free tows in the U.S.A. are only the beginning. Your policy may say they only tow 7 miles - but that's not the full truth. AAA will tow you seven miles in town.
Your Checkbook	Most self-service campgrounds accept checks.
Your Credit Cards and ATM Cards	Yes, I have left my VISA at home accidentally- the only time I have needed it.
Money	Don't bring hundreds please!
Water	I use a large container for the bulk of the water and keep a soda bottle with water in reach for drinking in the car or on hikes.
Maps	
Toys	Let your kids pick out what they want.
Games	A deck of cards for sure and small games such as Farkel are great!
Snacks	Good distractions for the little ones.
Towels	I use them as seat covers to protect from accidents for easy packing.

Clothing

Good Hat	
Rain Poncho	
Bug Head Net	
Multi-Pocket Vest	A great piece of apparel. Keeps all your little items handy.
Sport Sandals	
Long Underwear	

Shorts, Pants, Short and Long Sleeve Shirts	Bring a variety of clothes because temperatures and conditions can change quickly.
Filp-Flops	Great for showering in as well as lake swimming.
Sunglasses	Always protect your eyes!
Hiking boots or older shoes	Shoes will get dirty and beat up especially when it rains!