



Voyageur/Isle Royale Backpacking Equipment List

The following is a list of all clothing and personal equipment needed to have an enjoyable wilderness experience. It is designed to help you prepare and give you an idea of how each piece of gear will be used. Because weather is unpredictable, there is no guarantee that all of the equipment will be used.

This list is meant to be followed closely. Bringing less may lead to cold challenges and bringing more will result in heavier packs.

If you have any questions, or if you would like any more information regarding any of the items on the list, please contact Ryan Wagner, the Wilderness Program Director at 715-385-2312 or ryan.wagner@manito-wish.org

Footwear

Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Boots	1	Sturdy leather backpacking or solid hiking boots with good ankle support. On these trips you can probably get away with a leather/synthetic lighter backpacking boot, but you will no doubt buy a good boot if you buy a boot based on our recommendations. See end of list for boot information for the Western and Expeditionary Backpacking Trips.	
Socks	3	Medium wool, merino wool or ragg, or thick polypropylene (no wool/cotton blends)	
Liner socks	1- Optional	Synthetic/wool – personal preference	
Gaiters	Optional	Must be knee high and durable. Look for double closures(both zippers and snaps) or 2” Velcro. Outdoor Research, Black Diamond and Mountain Hardwear are good brands.	
Camp shoes	1	Cross Trainers, tennis or running shoes in good condition for around camp and short day hikes. Sandals, Keens, Crocs or any footwear where the foot is exposed will not be allowed on the trip.	

Upper Body Clothing

Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Light to mid-weight long sleeve underwear top	1	Synthetic or merino wool base layer top. (Examples; Patagonia Capilene/Wool, Icebreaker 220-260, Under Armor, Mountain Hardwear)	
Thin fleece or heavy long underwear	1	Any secondary fleece layer of 100-200 weight. Expedition-weight long underwear works as well.	
Heavy Fleece jacket	1	Should fit over other layers. Can be generic brands for fleece. Older fleece tends to lose its loft.	
Rain jacket	1	We recommend “rain proof” not “rain resistant”. Multi-layer rain proof is better. Look for most durable rain jacket for the most value. Should fit over all layers.	
Lightweight short sleeve top	2	One for in-camp and one for hiking.	
Nylon wind top	1- Optional	Optional – Should be able to be worn over all layers. Allows you to have a lightweight breathable layer for when it isn’t raining. Many past Western participants use their rain jacket instead of bringing a wind top.	

Lower Body Clothing			
Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Light to midweight bottoms	1	Synthetic or Merino Wool base layer. (Examples; Patagonia Capilene/Wool, Icebreaker, Under Armor Mountain Hardwear)	
Rain pants	1	Water proof and durable. Vinyl/rubberized not acceptable	
Wind pants	1-Optional	Your rain pants may also double as wind pants. If you choose to bring these, they should fit over all layers.	
Nylon shorts	1	Athletic shorts are fine. They will be used for hiking and around camp.	

Hands and Head			
Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Wool/fleece hat	1	Anything that will cover your ears	
Baseball cap or hat with brim	1	Sun protection is the primary use	
Fleece gloves	1	Basic lightweight or synthetic gloves	
Bandanas	2-3	Any old bandana will do. Optional for guys and highly recommended for women's trips.	

Sleeping Equipment			
Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Sleeping bag	1	We recommend synthetic bags rated to 15-20 degrees F. The possibility for multiple days of rain makes it difficult to keep a down bag dry.	
Sleeping pad	1	1)Should be closed-cell foam and 3/8" thick that will serve as the insulator between you and the ground. (simple foam pads can be borrowed from Camp) 2)Inflatable pads such as thermarest, Big Agnes, Exped work well.	
Sleeping bag compression stuff sack	Optional	This depends on the type of pack, type of sleeping bag and how you want to pack your pack.	

Backpack			
Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Backpack	1 - Optional	We use Lowe, Granite Gear and Osprey internal frame packs. You can borrow a pack from Camp with the option to buy at the end of the trip. If you bring a pack, it will be examined by your trip leaders to determine its suitability for your trip. It must have a volume of at least 5500 cubic inches. Do not listen to sales people who tell you otherwise.	Can borrow from Camp
Small stuff sacks	1-2	For organizing items in your pack	
Waterproof pack cover	1 - Optional	You can usually find a pack cover that is made for your pack. This or a Plastic trash compactor bag for lining your pack work well.	Can borrow from Camp

Miscellaneous Personal Gear

Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Headlamp	1	Lightweight options are available from Petzl, Black Diamone and Princeton Tec.	
Sunglasses	1 pair	Any good quality sunglasses with 100% UV protection will work. If you wear prescription glasses and have impaired vision without them, bring prescription sunglasses or high quality clip-ons.	
Sunscreen	1 tube or bottle	One tube or bottle of 2-3 oz will do. Make sure it is at least SPF 30 or greater. If you burn easily, bring zinc oxide.	
Lip balm	1	Stick or cream. Make sure it provides sun protection	
Insect repellent	1	Small bottle	
Trekking poles	1 pair	Single or double adjustable are recommended. Walking sticks or lightweight track skiing poles are not recommended. Trekking poles work well to relieve stress on knees and ankles.	
Water bottle	2	Wide mouth quart or liter size	
Journal	1	Small packable journal with pen/pencil. Avoid heavy notebooks	
Toiletries	NA	Toothbrush and past, comb/brush, prescription meds, baby wipes for females, feminine hygiene products. If possible, avoid odorous items as they can attract bears. No deodorant.	
Prescription glasses or contact lenses	NA	Bring a spare set if this pertains to you.	
Spending money	\$100-\$200	Cash. Money for t-shirts, additional snacks, Trading Post purchases, Fishing Licenses(~\$17for Minnesota)	

Optional Gear

Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Camera	1 -Optional	Small, light and durable with spare batteries. Extra memory cards and batteries also recommended	
Book	1-2-Optional	Small books to be shared with group	
Vitamins	1-Optional	Multi-vitamin supplement	
Knife	1-Optional	Small pocketknife, Leatherman	
Underwear	2-3 pair Optional	Personal preference. For women, sports bras made out of a moisture wicking material is recommended. All underwear should be made of synthetic materials.	
Fly/spin casting fishing gear	1-Optional	Quality of fishing depends on the route.	
Whistle	1-Optional	If you tend to get attached to your whistle, this way you can keep it at the end of the trip.	
Crazy Creek or similar camp chair	1-Optional	Many former campers recommend these for around the campsite	
Eating gear	1-Optional	If you have your favorite bowl, mug, or spoon, bring it. Tupperware(1-2 pint) type bowls with a lid, lexan plastic spoon and an insulated mug(12-20 oz. are recommended)	
Compass	1-Optional	If you have one that you are comfortable using, bring it.	

Clothing for Camp Manito-wish

Equipment	Quantity	Comments	Check List
4-5 days worth of clothing	1	During this time you will be indoors, outdoors and getting dirty. Bring some old comfortable clothes that will be stored at Camp while you are on trail. Please keep it to what you will need.	
Towel	1	For showering at Camp	
Toiletries	1	Anything that you won't take on trail – shampoo, soap, deodorant	
Bedding	1-Optional	Sheets/Pillow for time at Camp before and after Camp. You can also use your sleeping bag.	

Voyageur and Isle Royale Boot Recommendations are listed on the first page. We have referenced the guide for the longer backpacking trips as a starting place for shopping.

Recommended Boots for Western and Expeditionary Backpacking Trips;

Look for medium-weight, off-trail backpacking/light mountaineering. This type of boot is made with a full grain leather upper and typically has a Vibram® rubber sole. Some models utilize an injection molded, composite rubber sole with a randed welt to bond the leather upper to the sole. Both types of sole are acceptable. These boots are designed for extended backpacking, provide good support for off-trail hiking with heavy packs, and usually require less break in time than heavy mountaineering boots. Gortex on wet trips might mean that your boot will not dry as fast, but most high quality boots contain Gortex.

The below list in not a definitive selection guide, but it can serve as a starting point. The key is to find a boot that will stand up to 45 days of off trail hiking in one of the toughest environments in the United States. Do not skimp on your boot selection. Come to Camp with a broken in good quality leather model designed for extended backpacking expeditions with heavy backpacks.

Examples of Acceptable Boots * Please note that manufacturers often rename their boots.

- Asolo: TPS 520 GV, TPS 535
- Lowa: Tahoe GTX, Tibet GTX, Banff
- Garmont: Dakota
- La Sportiva: Pingora GTX, Thunder GTX
- Montrail: Blue Ridge, Torre, Traverse
- Scarpa: Delta M3, SL M3
- Technica: Galaad NB, Gallad SD GTX
- Vasque: Switchback, Switchback GTX, Zepher GTX, Zepher II, Wasatch GTX, Sundowner GTX, Summit GTX, Sundowner Black or Brown GTX, Sundowner Classic GTX, Wilderness Vasque Chinook, Breeze XCR Hiking, Clarion GTX

The above boot information references NOLS Wind River Wilderness Equipment List

Gear Provided by Camp Manito-wish

- Tents
- Stoves and fuel
- Cooking gear
- Backpack
- Equipment repair kits
- Maps and Compass
- First Aid Kits
- Emergency Communication Devices
- Water Treatment