

Youth Backpacking Packing List

Woohoo! You're coming to Big Creek for a backcountry adventure! In all of your excitement to join us, we don't want you to forget anything you may need. We will be in the backcountry for almost all of your trip, so you will want to be prepared for unpredictable weather, especially rain, intense sun exposure, cold winds and maybe even snow. We have some gear items available to borrow if needed.

Please contact us with any questions – we are more than happy to help you pack and plan for the trip!

Labeling your belongings with your name is a fantastic way to make sure they all make it home with you. We do not have the ability to do laundry at our facility, so please pack accordingly. See you soon!

Clothing reminder:

Synthetic fabrics or wool are *REQUIRED* for all backpacking clothing including socks, underwear, and any layers.

Cotton fabrics hold moisture, stay wet, and severely increase the risk of hypothermia. Wool and synthetic fabrics (like polyester and nylon) dry quickly, wick moisture, and can keep you warm even when wet.

Beware of wool/cotton blends, these still retain the dangerous properties of cotton. If you are bringing wool, please bring only 100% wool or wool/synthetic blends.

Clothing to Bring:

Active/Daytime Clothing:

- Shirts (long sleeves are recommended for sun and insect protection)
- Long, hiking pants
- Hiking socks
- Underwear
- Brimmed hat - *does not need to be a synthetic/wool fabric*
- Sturdy, closed-toe hiking boots/shoes - *new boots = blisters. Please break in your boots before coming to camp*
- "Camp" or water shoes
Something lightweight and comfortable to change into while around camp

There's more. . .

Warm Clothing:

- Long underwear/base layers - *tops and bottoms*
- Mid layers
- Warm jacket/coat
- Knit cap
- Gloves/mittens
- Warm socks - *an extra pair or two is always recommended*
- Warm sleeping clothes
a separate pair of long underwear/base layers than the daytime base layer works best

Rain Gear:

- Hooded, waterproof jacket
- Rain pants – *optional*

Gear:

- Water bottle with a screw cap
MINIMUM 1 liter capacity - *2 liters is preferred for summer*
- Travel size toiletries
 - Toothpaste
 - Toothbrush
 - Hairbrush/hair ties
 - Deodorant
 - Bug Spray
 - Sunscreen
 - Hand Sanitizer
 - Other essential toiletry items
- Small flashlight or headlamp with fresh batteries
- Small/travel size towel or large handkerchief

Optional:

- Sunglasses
- Personal eating utensils
Each camper will be provided with a bowl and eating utensils for our trip
- One small book/journal
- Deck of cards
- Binoculars
- Snacks
We do provide snacks, however if you want something extra special feel free to pack it

There's more. . .

Items to Leave at Home:

Bear spray – Knives - Firearms – Fireworks - Electronic devices - Chewing gum

Hair dryers, curling irons, etc. (our off-grid power system cannot handle these types of items)

Aerosol body sprays - *these can upset others' respiratory system*

Directions to Big Creek

Big Creek Outdoor Education Center is visible and located on the North Fork Road **NOT** the Big Creek Road and directly across from the Big Creek

From Columbia Falls:

Head North on Nucleus Avenue until you reach a “T” in the road (the end of Nucleus). Yield right and follow the road up and over the railroad viaduct, you are now on the North Fork Road! Travel ~12 miles until you reach the end of the pavement and continue another ~7-8 miles on the dirt road until you reach pavement again. Big Creek Outdoor Education Center is located on the left side of the road, opposite the Big Creek Campground, about 100 yards after the road turns to pavement.

From Apgar Village/West Glacier:

If the Camas Road is open, simply follow it ~11 miles until the road ends at a “T” (after you cross the Camas bridge over the river). Turn left at the “T” onto the dirt North Fork Road. Travel ~2 miles south until the dirt turns to pavement and you cross another bridge. Big Creek Outdoor Education Center is located just beyond this bridge on the right-hand side of the road.

