



Strengthening connections to the natural world through outdoor education.

Big Creek Winter Gear List

The following is a helpful checklist while you join us on your trip. We spend as much time as possible outside in most types of weather, and there are a few important gear items you're going to need and want. Labeling your belongings with your name is a proactive way to make sure it all returns to you. Although we are not far from Kalispell, we generally experience a temperature difference of 10 degrees warmer or cooler. We do not have the ability to do laundry at our facility, so please pack accordingly.

**Note: Synthetic or wool fabrics are recommended whenever possible. Synthetics dry quickly, wick moisture, and keep you warm. Cotton gets wet, stays wet, and makes you cold.*

Clothing:

- ☐ Long-sleeve shirts for sun and insect protection
- ☐ Long pants
- ☐ Heavy fleece or wool pants, or waterproof snow pants
- ☐ Wool or synthetic long underwear/base layers, top and bottom — no cotton
- ☐ Heavy fleece or wool mid-layer or sweater/sweatshirt
- ☐ Warm waterproof outer jacket with a hood
- ☐ Warm hat that covers the ears
- ☐ Mittens with liners or warm gloves
- ☐ Long wool or synthetic socks, plus extra pairs
- ☐ Undergarments, plus an extra set +base layer
- ☐ Insulated waterproof winter boots, broken in before the trip
- ☐ Comfortable camp shoes for the cabin
- ☐ Sleeping clothes — required for overnight trips
- ☐ Gaiters — optional
- ☐ Seasonal clothing

Gear/Essentials:

- ☐ Arrival-day trail lunch and snacks
- ☐ Water bottle at least 2 liters
- ☐ Daypack large enough for layers, water, lunch, and notebook, with a plastic liner or rain cover
- ☐ Sleeping bag — overnight trips
- ☐ Pillow — overnight trips
- ☐ Toiletries; deodorant, toothbrush, etc.
- ☐ Small flashlight or headlamp



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- ☐ Field notebook or journal, pencil or writing utensil, and a waterproof storage bag
- ☐ Regular medications in original containers with prescription labels
- ☐ Sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm, and insect repellent
- ☐ Plastic bag for dirty or wet clothing
- ☐ Towel and shower shoes — for stays of three or more nights
- ☐ Binoculars — optional
- ☐ Camera — Essential for Photography course
- ☐ Field guides — optional
- ☐ Trekking poles for balance while snowshoeing — optional

Items to Leave at Home:

- Bear spray
- Knives
- Firearms
- Explosives
- Aerosol body sprays (these can upset others' respiratory systems)
- Electronic devices (phones, tablets, gaming devices, etc.)
- Hair dryers, curling irons, etc. (our off-grid power system cannot handle appliances)
- Swim suit (our programming does not include swimming at Big Creek)



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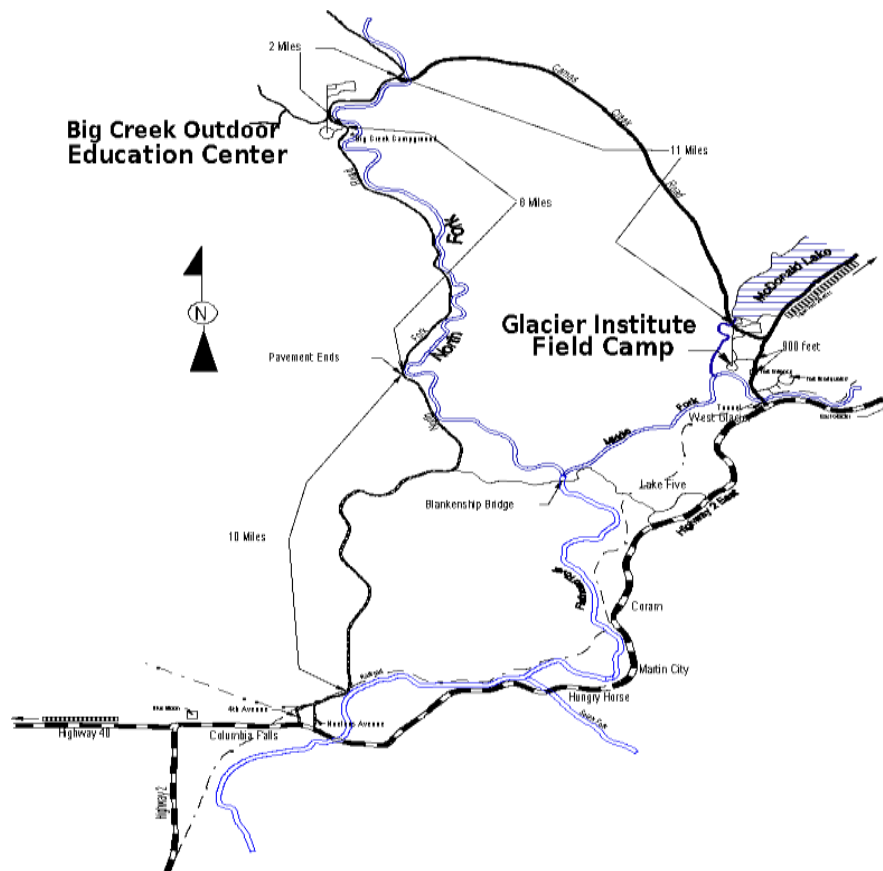
Directions to Big Creek:

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.



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The Glacier Institute is the official education partner of Glacier National Park and the Flathead National Forest.