



Required Clothing List – What to bring on course

Packing for Backcountry Travel

Backcountry travel means you can and, for your comfort, should carry a lot less than you do in the regular world; most experienced backcountry travelers will tell you that they bring about the same amount of gear on a three-day trip as they would on a three-week trip.

Your COBS Packing List:

- **Colorado Outward Bound School provides other necessary equipment not on this list, including stoves, sleeping pads, sleeping bags, backpacks, cookware, sleeping tarps, ropes, dry bags, and lifejackets.**
- There are no additional fees for the use of our equipment, but if our equipment is lost or damaged beyond normal wear and tear, you will be charged for the replacement.
- Pack your clothing and gear in a duffel bag or suitcase. You will keep personal items such as clean clothes (for your return trip home) and valuables (cell phones, electronic devices, and wallets) in your bag or suitcase while you are on course. These items are kept at our base camp facility in a locked storage area while you are on course. Please leave unnecessary items at home.
- Once on the course, your instructors will help you select from your luggage the best combination of items for you. They will assess your personal gear, the group gear you will be required to carry, and then balance it against your pack weight, physical size, and temperature for the time of year.
- Since this list must accommodate ALL the weather conditions you may encounter and consider the wide range of individual preferences and body temperatures of our students, it is very likely you will not use every single item on this list. One option is to leave the tags on any items you purchase for this course in the event they were not used on the trip and you would like to return them but please note your retailers' return policies!
- **Please bring everything on the list!** If there are items not mentioned on this list you feel you will need, or you have concerns about cost and want help strategizing for less expensive options, call and ask your course advisor.

Clothing Systems:

- **Layering:**
 - *First layer*—This layer is worn next to your skin. Synthetic and wool materials pull moisture away from your body so your sweat won't cool you down too much and make you cold.
 - *Mid layer(s)*— the insulation layer (warm tops, socks, fleece pants). This should be thick fluffy sweaters and jackets that will trap and store the heat your body is producing to keep you warm.
 - *Outer layer*—the shell layer (jackets, pants, rain gear). Adding an outer wind and/or waterproof layer makes sure that the wind does not steal all that built up heat and all your insulating layers do not get soaked.
- **Hard Shell:** These are materials that are waterproof, windproof, and breathable and generally worn when it's raining, snowing, or really windy.
- **Soft Shell:** These are materials that are water and wind resistant, but not always waterproof. They are more breathable than hard shell materials.



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- **Fleece:** Great insulator and dries quickly, but not always wind proof. In windy conditions, you'll often wear your hard shell over your fleece to combine the wind-resistance and insulation.
- **Wool:** Natural material that, unlike cotton, keeps you warm when wet. It's a bit heavier than some of the synthetic fabric. As a bonus, wool is naturally odor and bacteria resistant.
- **Synthetic:** Most items listed here should not be cotton, because cotton absorbs water, dries slowly, and steals your warmth when wet. Acceptable non-cotton options are wool, capilene, poly-propylene, polyester, fleece, acrylic, rayon, Polartec, Thinsulate, COOLMAX, and nylon.

Medications:

- All prescription medications must be listed in the applicant's medical record, must be approved by your course advisor prior to course, and must accompany the participant on course. Participants may not be permitted to begin their course without their required medications OR with new medications not approved by your course advisor.
- All medications (prescription, non-prescription, and OTC) must be in their original containers with the prescription label intact. The prescription label is documentation of the dosage directions. If possible, bring a double supply.

What to Wear While Travelling:

We recommend you wear course clothing and boots while travelling and bring all essentials (prescription meds, insurance card copy, cash) in a carry-on. This will minimize the inconvenience in the unlikely event your luggage is delayed in transport. Being dressed for course will also further the efficiency on your first day, especially since front country bathrooms and private changing areas are rarely available.

Items Not Allowed On Course:

- Electronics—cell phones, iPods, etc. These may be brought on the plane or bus but will need to be stored at the base before going into the field.
- Deodorant, makeup, shampoo, conditioner, perfume, cologne, etc.
- Illegal drugs, marijuana, alcohol, and tobacco products of any kind.
- Any prescription drugs not cleared by your course advisor.
- Weapons of any kind.

Weather During Your Course:

Expect spring and fall daytime temperatures in the canyons and the mountains ranging from 55-90 degrees with nighttime temperatures ranging from 25-45 degrees. Despite these recommendations of what is "normal weather," our course environments are characterized by unpredictable weather—snow and freezing weather as well as 100-degree heat are all within the realm of possible weather during the late spring, although rare. Please check the weather for Moab, Utah on www.weather.com before your course to have an idea of what to expect, but **please bring everything on this list** since weather patterns can change quickly over the course of 30 days. Once you arrive at course start, your instructors will update you on current weather patterns and what clothing will be appropriate.



PLEASE BRING ALL ITEMS IN THIS SECTION: You are welcome to bring extras of the items marked with a plus (+) sign. There are multiple brand name options available at varying prices. Please ask your local outdoor retailer if you have specific questions or for alternative brands. This list is to prepare you for extremes in temperature that often occur, but your instructors will let you know exactly what to bring from this list with the current forecasted weather. Remember to keep tags on your items in case you don't use it on course and you can then return those items.


Clothing & Footwear:

Tops			
#	Item	Description	Price Range
3+	Synthetic Short Sleeve T- Shirts	This T-shirt is made out of quick-drying fabric that moves moisture away from your skin and allows maximum airflow.	\$12-\$30
1+	Long Sleeve Sun Shirt	Loose, lightweight, light-colored for sun protection. Instructors prefer sun hoodies or lighter weight western style pearl snap shirts from thrift stores. Cotton or Nylon.	\$2-\$40
1	Long Sleeve Mid-Layer	Medium weight wool or 100 weight fleece (example: Patagonia R1) Hooded versions can be nice, but not necessary.	\$30+

Bottoms			
#	Item	Description	Price Range
2 pair	Quick Dry/Hiking Shorts	Lightweight nylon fabric wicks moisture and dries quickly. Board shorts or running shorts work well. Pockets are always nice.	\$20-\$50
1 pair	Light/Medium weight Softshell pant or Quick Dry Pants	Synthetic fabrics dry quickly and are easy to pack away. Fit should allow for large range of motion. Sturdy materials stand up much better in the canyons. Example of light/medium weight softshell pant (i.e. REI Mistral Pants).	\$30-\$60
1	Fleece Pants	These pants are made out of Polyester Fleece. They should be loose enough to fit over a pair of long underwear or shorts.	\$30-\$70

Inner Layers: fits next to the skin			
#	Item	Description	Price Range
1	Lightweight long underwear set	You will need a top and a bottom. This is your base layer meaning this goes next to your skin and you will wear more layers on top. This is a good online resource: http://www.rei.com/expertadvice/articles/underwear.html	\$60+ for a top and a bottom
1	Expedition-weight/Heavyweight Long Underwear Set	You will need a top and a bottom. This can be your second or third layer depending on what is required. Fit should be ever so slightly loose, it is nice to be able to fit the lightweight long underwear set underneath this set in case it gets real cold.	\$60+ for a top and a bottom
6+	Underwear-cotton or synthetic	Bring at least one pair of synthetic for the river. Otherwise cotton is okay for underwear especially if you are prone to urinary tract infections (women mostly).	bring from home
2+	Sports Bras	Should have the proper support for athletic activity. Can be worn as a swim top with quick drying shorts if a swimsuit is required. You do not need to bring a swimsuit if you plan on using this combination.	\$20+




Outer Layers: must fit over all the layers			
#	Item	Description	Price Range
1	Fleece Pullover/Jacket	A mid to heavy weight fleece (200-300weight) jacket with a half to full length zipper. It has good breathability, making it a good choice when insulation is needed during vigorous, highly aerobic activity. Dries quickly when wet.	\$40+
1	Synthetic Insulated Jacket (Puffy)	Synthetic puffers are water-resistant and will dry more quickly than down and even retains the ability to warm you while damp. When choosing a synthetic “Puffy”, a jacket between 14oz.- 19oz. is a great choice for this time of year (packable, yet warm). Your rain jacket should fit over your puffy jacket.	\$70-\$200
			
1	Raincoat & rain pants	All rainwear must be 100% water proof, not water resistant! Rain jackets should also include a hood. Breathable fabrics highly recommended. Breathable Options include: Any Gore-Tex jacket or breathable coated fabrics like the Marmot © PreCip or Phoenix Rainwear, REI Ultra Light or Kulshan Rainwear are suitable examples.	\$120 + for pair

Head & Hands			
#	Item	Description	Price Range
1	Warm hat	A warm hat that will be used for when things get chilly. Can have ear flaps. No cotton.	\$8-\$25
1	Sun hat	Should have a good brim to at a minimum cover your face like a baseball cap or can have a brim all the way around for added protection. Should be made of softer material so it can fold up easily if needed.	\$5-\$25
1 pair	Light-Mid weight Fleece Gloves or Mittens	Basic mittens/gloves that are made out of polyester that will keep your hands warm even when wet. Can have a wind stopper material woven in.	\$25+
2+	Face Mask – Fabric style	To be worn at course start, during social distancing, during travel days, while preparing food, while in close-proximity to others, and when requested by COBS staff. Should be washable, consist of at least 2 layers of fabric and securely cover the mouth and nose. N95s can also be brought to supplement washable masks.	\$5-\$10
2+	Face mask – Tubular Style (buff type)	To be worn when close to others during activities. Carried on the wrist throughout course for accessibility.	\$5-\$25

Feet			
#	Item	Description	Price Range
2+ pair	Liner Socks	Lightweight, flat-knit provides a close fit for a protective second skin that prevents blisters. Should be worn under heavier socks to prevent blisters. Need to be at least crew-height	\$5-\$9
7	Medium-weight	These socks are worn on top of the liner socks. At least need to	\$8 - \$18/pair



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pair	Hiking Socks	be crew-height. They have more padding for increased comfort on long backpacking trips. No cotton. Wool works great.	
1 pair	River Shoes	River sandals such as Teva or Chaco sandals are ideal. Vibram '5 finger' shoes are also a good option. Any boating shoe must have an ankle or heel strap. These shoes will be wet daily. Old sneakers will also work great, especially for spring time rafting. Flip-flops, Clogs, Crocs, and Aquasocks are NOT acceptable.	\$60+
1 pair	Running Shoes	Virtually every course requires two pairs of shoes; one to hike or boat in, and one dry pair to wear around camp or on longer day hikes. Camp shoes should be lightweight sturdy running shoes. An old pair of running shoes is just fine.	\$0-100
1 pair	Backpacking Boots	Backpacking boots are the most popular off-trail boots sold today. This category of boots used to be known as Medium-weight Hiking Boots. These boots have shock-absorbing composite rubber soles, innovative injection molded mid sole/shanks/plates and soft, yet supportive, leather uppers characterize this category of mountaineering/backpacking footwear. Through the use of state of-the-art materials, it is now possible to purchase a boot that is at once relatively lightweight, comfortable, supportive, and weatherproof and requires only a moderate break-in period. Medium-weight boots are offered in a wide variety of brands and models and work well for moving with full backpacks. VIBRAM (OR SIMILAR) SOLE REQUIRED. NO JUNGLE/WORK BOOTS. This is a good resource: http://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/hiking-boots.html	\$100+
1 pair	Neoprene Socks or Booties	These socks/booties will help keep your feet warm even when they are in cold water. 2-3 mm thickness will work well for this time of year. Neoprene socks are meant to be worn underneath your wet shoes. 	\$12-30

Other Items

Personal items			
#	Item	Description	Price Range
1	Insurance Card	If you are covered under any medical insurance please bring your card. The actual card is preferred, but a copy of the front and the back of the card will be okay.	Bring from home
2 pairs	Sunglasses with keeper strap and hard case	100% UV protection. Dark and sturdy, need to bring a keeper strap with them. Essential to protecting your eyes in a highly reflective environment! TWO PAIRS in case you lose or break one.	
2	Water bottles	Wide-mouthed and durable—Nalgene, Sigg, and Klean Kanteen make quality water bottles—NO DISPOSABLE BOTTLES. Each should hold 32 oz. for a minimum total capacity of 64 oz. Good hydration is very important in the dry climate. Screw	\$10-\$30





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		top lids are better than 'sippy-top' lids since the bottles will frequently come into contact with river water.	
1	Sunscreen	Waterproof and SPF 30+ smaller tubes (approx 3-4 oz tube) make packing it easier.	\$5+
1	Lip Balm	With SPF to protect from the sun.	\$2+
1	Moisturizing Lotion	12 oz. bottle. The desert is awfully dry.	\$5+
2+	Personal Hand Sanitizer	Travel-size (2-3 oz). These will be able to be re-filled throughout course.	\$1-\$8
1	Digital Oral Thermometer	Used to check temperature.	\$8-\$20
2	Bandanas	This all-purpose piece of cotton absorbs sweat, cleans off trail-grime and offers a multitude of other camp and trail uses.	\$1-\$5
1	Toiletries Kit	Toothbrush, small toothpaste, small biodegradable soap, comb or brush, several wash & dry or baby wipes (deodorant, shampoo, and makeup are unnecessary).	
	Feminine Supplies	Please bring an ample supply as changes in diet, altitude, & fitness level can unexpectedly bring on your period. We are a Leave No Trace organization so tampons such as OB that do not have plastic applicators are recommended as it reduces the amount of trash being carried out. A Diva Cup is also a great reusable option. You are welcome to bring pads if that is the system you are most comfortable using. If you have any questions please contact your course advisor or instructor.	
1	Small headlamp and 3 extra sets of batteries.	This is a hands free flashlight. It is either a LED or halogen headlamp that uses a minimum of three volts (two or more AA- or AAA-batteries). Bring two extra sets of batteries. Headlamps with a red setting are ideal to preserve your night-vision, battery power, and to not attract bugs. 	\$15-\$40
2 sets	Prescription Medications including Asthma Inhalers	THESE MUST BE DECLARED DURING THE APPROVAL PROCESS. Please bring these to course start even if you think they are unnecessary. Please bring in their original containers and a Ziploc bag for storage.	
2 sets	Glasses or contacts, if needed	Contacts are ok w/ glasses as backup. Bring extra glasses and a hard case if applicable.	
1	Watch with Alarm	Inexpensive, durable, and waterproof. You will be responsible for waking up on time!	\$10+

Travel to and from			
#	Item	Description	Price Range
-	Travel money or snacks	The first day is often long. Have cash to buy snacks along the way or bring food with you. There may be unexpected expenses such as luggage fees, and if you damage or lose Outward Bound equipment, you will be charged a repair or replacement fee.	\$50
1 set	Clean clothes for the trip home	Please bring a clean set of clothes to travel home in.	Bring from home



Optional Items: these are NOT required and you will be fine without them. Please only buy them if you plan to use the items again after your course or you think they will be of great assistance to you while on course (you may be asked to leave these behind depending on weather and available space in your backpack or dry bag).

Optional Items			
#	Item	Description	Price Range
1	Travel Insurance	COBS strongly recommends purchasing travel insurance to protect you in the event of an emergency cancellation or early medical departure. There are many companies that offer it, but we've seen success with Travelex Insurance (www.travelexinsurance.com).	Varies on plan
1	Baby Wipes	Unscented. Keep in mind that you will have to pack out any used baby wipes.	1
1	Water Filter	COBS disinfects all wilderness water with iodine, bleach, or by boiling. Not all of these methods are effective against cryptosporidium. Immunocompromised people may wish to obtain an appropriate water filter for their course.	\$40-100
1	Crazy Creek Chair	Crazy Creek is a popular brand. No chairs with legs can be brought! Must be lightweight and packable/rollable. 	\$20+
1	Trekking Poles	These are of great assistance to those who experience knee problems or want more stability on the trail. Adjustable length trekking poles provide the best versatility and comfort.	\$50+
1	Camera	Disposables are great & don't get filled with sand. Bring multiple cameras if disposable. Digital cameras are fine, but you will have to take some extra precautions like putting it in a waterproof bag to keep out dirt and sand. Olympus, Canon, and Fuji all make digital waterproof cameras.	
1	Straw Sunhat	Great for the river	\$10
	Stationery, Stamps, Journal, 2 Pens	Bring pre-addressed/stamped envelopes to write letters home and pens to write letters or record your thoughts.	
1	Platypus or Camelbak (Hydration bladder)	This can make hydrating while hiking in the canyons easier so you don't have to stop to reach your water bottle. It helps to buy just the bladder, not the backpack since you will already have a backpack. These can only be used on land since they are difficult and hazardous to rig on the rafts for rapids. 3-4 Liter size is recommended.	\$30+
1 pair	Neoprene Gloves	If your hands get cold easily, these will help keep hands warmer even when they're wet and to help with blisters from paddling. 	\$15-30



Outward Bound provides all other equipment including sleeping bags, sleeping pads, day packs, dry bags, shelters, and backpacks. There are no additional fees for the use of this equipment, but if you lose or damage something you will be asked to reimburse us for it. If you have your own equipment and it meets the below criteria, you are welcome to bring it with you. Please be aware that your instructors will assess it for appropriateness and may ask you to use Outward Bound gear in lieu of your own if they do not find your gear adequate for your particular course.

If you DO wish to bring some of your own gear:

Here are our minimum standards for what MAY be acceptable for few common items.

- Sleeping bags – need to be made from synthetic materials (down fill is not appropriate for our purposes) and have a 0-degree warmth rating.
- Sleeping pads – can be $\frac{3}{4}$ to full size in length. They can be made of closed-cell foam (Ridge-Rest or Z-Rest) or be inflatable (Therma-Rest®). If you bring an inflatable pad you must bring a patch kit as well. Remember, inflatable pads usually weigh considerably more than closed-cell foam pads.
- Backpacks – need to have a minimum capacity of 6,000 cubic inches, should carry 45-60 lbs. comfortably and be an internal frame design. Side pockets are also a useful option.

If you bring your own equipment, it will be inspected by your instructor at the beginning of your course. If it does not meet our standards you can store it in a secure location during your course.