

Camping Guide - Kit

Please remember: We plan camps assuming that your child has everything on the kit list.

Where to shop?

Shopping Local

Towsure Holme Lane, S6
Go Outdoors Hill Street, Bramall Lane
Decathlon Eyre Street, S1
Sports Direct Meadowhall
Blacks Meadowhall

Shopping Online

- [Towsure](#)
- [Go Outdoors](#)
- [Decathlon](#)
- [Blacks](#)
- [Sports Direct](#)
- [Field and Trek](#)

Waterproofs

When shopping, don't be fooled into buying very expensive gear. For almost all our purposes, a jacket that is sold as waterproof will be as waterproof as one that costs £300 more.

Make sure that the jacket has a hood.

Boots (for Scouts/Explorers, rather than Cubs)

For good value gear, you are looking for fabric boots with a waterproof liner. It doesn't have to be gore-tex, most companies offer an equivalent. Don't buy outdoors trainers. You should buy boots with ankle support. Walk in them around the shop, do they slip?

There are clever tricks that you can do with your boot lacing to make them more comfortable, the laces do not have to be an equal tightness from bottom to top.

[Excellent article on different ways to lace walking boots if you have big feet](#). The tips are just as useful for everybody else.

A [video on lace tying](#). This is two minutes very well spent. Seriously. You spend money on good boots – learn to tie them!

Torch

Headtorches are ideal and have made camping easier. These can be bought for less than a £10 (Energizer make a good one). Handheld torches are still fine, with LED ones being good.

NO SUITCASES

Please. It's rare that we camp next to the car park. Kit needs to be carried across the field. Large sports bags are good, as are rucksacks.

Pack your waterproofs at the top of the bag. If it's raining when we arrive, waterproofs will need to go on.

Sleeping Bags

You should buy a nice warm sleeping bag. It can get cold at night! Have a look at the comfort rating, these can be optimistic so aim for a bit chillier than you expect. If you buy a bag that's too big, you can tie the bottom off (with string or a belt) to make it smaller. Sleeping bags should be stored out of their stuff sacks and you should stuff them for camps – not roll them.

Label Everything.

Buy a permanent pen and write your kids' names (or even just their initials) on everything. Your kids' kit may gravitate into a big pile of smelly laundry in the middle of the tent and there's only one way to be sure of getting it back!

Let them pack their kit

You won't be with them on the weekend so they need to know what is in their bag (and where it is in the bag). Either let them get ready themselves (can be disastrous with Cubs) or get their kit ready and laid out and then help them to pack each item. It's amazing how many kids will be convinced that 'Mum didn't pack me a torch'.

Make sure that they can carry their kit

Your kids will be carrying their bags to the tent. They might well be doing this at night and in the rain. Can they even lift the bag that you have given them?!

Be sensible about how much kit you give them

If they are away for a weekend, they will not need enough kit for a week. They should be able to get their kit into a nice small sports bag.

150th acknowledges 5th Beckenham Scouts who wrote the first version of this guide.