

# What To Bring



We suggest the following clothing and equipment be taken in your personal pack (which we supply with our Complete Outfitting Packages) for a 5-day trip in mid-summer. If your trip is in early June or late August, or is of a longer length, you should make the necessary adjustments. Remember, you will have a food packs, equipment packs, and canoes in addition to your personal gear. This is a guide; your personal preferences should be taken into consideration. Keep in mind:

- 1) **Most people take "too much stuff" on their trips.**
- 2) **You will be in a wilderness. Comfortable and rugged means far more than style here in the north country.**
- 3) **Travel light! You have chosen one of the few outfitters that exclusively provides ultra-lightweight equipment. Don't make your personal pack ultra-heavy.**

## Individual Items

- 2 Pair of rugged long pants (jeans are fine, but take longer to dry and can be chilling)
- 1 Additional pair of long pants or shorts
- 3-5 Changes of underwear and heavy cotton or wool socks (personal preference on count)
- 3 Medium or heavyweight cotton shirts (T-shirts are fine)
- 1 Heavyweight wool or flannel shirt
- 1 Lightweight jacket or windbreaker
- 1 Pair of rugged shoes for daily wear (climbing boots are too heavy - sandals and aqua socks are too light and provide no protection)  
Remember: Canoes must be walked into the water. Your daily footwear will get wet several times every day.
- 1 Pair of tennis or jogging shoes for afternoon/evening camp wear (the other pair will be getting wet on every portage)
- 1 Inexpensive rain suit (they often get torn). For safety reasons, a poncho should be avoided (very difficult for the wearer to swim) !
- 1 Swimsuit
- 1 Plastic drink bottle or canteen: 1 quart size. "Camel-backs" are difficult to use with portage packs (Also available in our shop.)
- 1 Toilet kit: 2 towels, small bar of hand soap, toothbrush, personal items, medications (allergies), glasses, small personal first aid kit with a few Band-Aids & adhesive tape, sunglasses, sun block, etc.
- 1 Large stuff sack or pillowcase to pack the above items in, AND 2 large heavyweight trash bags (as personal pack liners). Normally two (sometimes three) people share one personal pack. The stuffsacks serve as personal dividers; the trash bags ensure the items stay dry.

Optional Items, but strongly recommended Bug repellent with mid-range DEET content (always available here at the base), cotton or leather work gloves, a pocket knife (not a sheath knife for your belt), small flashlight, camera & lots of film, book to read or deck of cards. Spending money as needed for: live bait, fishing lures unique to our lakes, T-shirts, gift for the folks back home, etc. (\$25-\$75)

## Fishing Gear

We suggest ONE rod & reel per person, with one spare per every two people. Fresh line for the trip (6-8# for spinning, 8-12# for casting). Tackle should include BOTH light and dark shades, because the Quetico and the BWCA have both light and dark lakes. As a general rule of thumb, however, Quetico trips tend toward the lighter shades: chrome, silver, white, yellow, silver & black, silver & blue, and chartreuse. BWCA trips tend toward darker colors: black, brown, dark green, gold, and yellow. Two or three lures of each type and shade will cover average needs.

- For Northern Pike: 9" / 25# wire leaders, mid- to large size 1/4 - 1 oz) spoons and diving plugs, spinners for June trips.
- For Walleye: feather or hair 1/8 - 1/4 oz. jigs, small 1/8 - 1/4 oz sinking plugs and spinners, floating jigs for live bait (leeches).
- For Smallmouth Bass: shallow to medium running floating plugs and smaller spinners for spring and fall, top-water plugs & poppers for midsummer. Deep diving plugs and medium sized spinners for mid-day fishing. 1/4 oz ball or stand-up jigs work well for live bait (leeches or crawlers).
- For Lake Trout: (Limited Lakes) In early June use smallmouth gear. In mid-summer use northern pike tackle without the wire leaders.
- For Pan Fish: We suggest 1/16 - 3/16 oz. feather or hair jigs, or with live bait. Small minnow type in-line spinners work well.
- We highly recommend live bait. The use of nightcrawlers & ribbon leeches can really help on "slow" days (limited to US-side trips only) We carry both baits at our base depending on the time of summer. We also stock a full supply of Minnesota fishing licenses. For those going into Quetico Park, you will purchase your Ontario license at the ranger station as you enter the park (US cash, US traveler's checks, Mastercard & Visa credit cards).

We carry the above basic items in our shop if you can't find them at home. For specific lures on specific lakes, we recommend finishing out your selections in our small tackle shop after the mapping session. We can then talk about your individual situations and our staff can make suggestions based on your specific route. Don't load up on a lot of recommendations from a local store at home. Their "tips" are usually too general for the unique lakes of the canoe country. If the salesman swears it works, ask "On which lakes?"

## Shared Group Items

- 1 Compass
- 1 Bic-type lighter should you lose your matches or they get wet.
- 2 Needle nosed pliers with wire cutters for each travel group.
- 1 Roll of duct tape for emergency repairs on the trail.
- 1 Compact group first aid kit with antiseptics, wound management supplies, eye wash, tweezers, pain medication, antiseptics, anti-inflammatories, intestinal medications, etc.



- Additional clean clothes for the trip home.
- 2 extra towels for use with showers at the base before and after your trip.

**For those who forget:  
Bunkhouse towel rental & soap is \$2.00**

**If in doubt ...  
leave it out !**