



A Scout's Guide to Outdoor Gear

2002 Edition



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Introduction

So your kid's a brand new Boy Scout. Selecting the right outdoor gear from the start can help make your boy's outdoor experiences safe, comfortable, and enjoyable. Regardless of what you see in the catalogs or specialty stores, quality outdoor gear doesn't have to be expensive.

Most scouting programs sponsor year-round outdoor activities. Some Troops pause briefly while the dead of winter runs its course where as your Troop may enjoy the challenge of cold weather camping. Anyway, its a safe bet that the bulk of outdoor activities will take place during the spring, summer and fall months -- "Three season camping," as the experts call it. Your initial efforts at collecting gear should concentrate on those mild months. Sure, a set of Arctic boots and a warm parka are nice on those sub-zero days, but a pair of comfortable, well fitting, mild-weather hiking boots will see a lot more use by a scout.

What follows here is one person's opinion on how to equip a beginning Boy Scout. Of course, these recommendations are based on the slightly biased opinions and experiences of an old scout and have nothing to do with the latest fashion fads. Therein lies the challenge of a parent or guardian, balancing the fashion consciousness of youth against the sensibilities of old age. It may take a few uncomfortable times to let children see the light but what the heck, as long as it doesn't produce long term disability or emotional impairment, experience is the best teacher. After all, we can only guide them; we can't make them march in rigid lock step the rest of their lives. I have included examples of each item described in this guide.

Socks & Shoes

Socks

Socks should be thick and comfortable as foot power is the most common mode of transportation in the Boy Scout outdoor program. The best pair of boots in the world can be miserable unless you have proper socks to cushion the foot, absorb perspiration, and prevent blister-causing friction.

Stay away from cotton or cotton blend "sweat socks". They become clammy when wet, take forever to dry and can cause blisters like there's no tomorrow. Best are wool or wool/synthetic blends.

Reasonably thick, they'll cushion and protect the foot even when they're damp. Get them in gray or dark colors and they'll not show the dirt that gets ground into them when your scouts go running around camp without shoes. Personally, I don't like tube socks. They always seem to bunch up around the instep and rub my foot in the wrong places.

A thin pair of synthetic blend liner socks helps eliminate friction that causes hot spots and blisters. I usually wear a pair of thin silk liner socks. Two liners and three pairs of regular socks will usually do for a weekend trip. However, I've seen scouts go an entire weekend without changing socks despite the insistence of leaders that they do so. Remember that dry feet are warm feet. This is vital during cold weather camping.

BSA	BSA Scout Socks	#Z566	\$4.45 / pair
	BSA Knee Socks	#Z570	\$5.00
	BSA Hiking Socks	#Z569	\$11.75
CAMPMOR	Thoro [®] Hiking Socks	#01906	\$10.00
	Thoro Light Treking Socks	#01911	\$14.00
	Wigwam [®] Polypropylene Liner	#90050	\$4.00
	Wigwam Coolmax [®] Liners	#02168	\$5.00

Gaiters

Gaiters are what all older scouts remember as leggings. No, leggings are not the stretch pants women and girls wear today. Originally leggings were devices worn by the Army during World War I and World War II. Leggings were adopted by the BSA as a using item to keep your feet and socks dry while hiking on the trail. The leggings have been reborn today and are called gaiters. They are extremely useful items that keep dirt, rocks, twigs, and snow out of your shoes while on the trail. A short gaiter is great during the warmer months whereas the long gaiter is best worn during the cooler months of fall and winter. Gore-Tex[®] or coated nylon gaiters are necessary when deep snow or rain is in the camping weather forecast.

CAMPMOR	Outdoor Research		
	Rocky Mountain (Low) Gaiter	#00171	\$23.99
	Rocky Mountain (High) Gaiter	#34590	\$39.99
	Crocodiles Gore-Tex	#00170	\$46.99
	Campmor		
	Gore-Tex II Easy Gaiter	#78523	\$33.99
	Super Coated Gaiter	#12463	\$22.95
	Log House Designs		
	Deluxe Gore-Tex II Gaiter	#78527	\$36.99

Shoes

Next comes the outer footwear. Active scouts need a pair of sturdy, well fitting shoes that stay comfortable after a long day of walking. The line that differentiates sneakers and hiking boots has blurred in the last couple of years so take your pick. As the saying goes, "If the shoe fits, wear it", and fit in outdoor footwear is far more important than fashion. Be sure that shoes still fit well when wearing the socks you intend to wear on your outdoor adventures. The perfect camping boots are lightweight, strong, well-fitting, supportive, breathable, water repellent, and inexpensive. Keep in mind a scout may be lucky to use a pair of boots one season before he needs a larger size. If you find a pair that meets all of these qualifications, be sure to let me in on the deal. Unless the program includes a trip to Mt. Rainier you shouldn't need stiff, clunky mountaineering boots. However, I can't predict what the next fashion trend will be.

Almost as important as hiking shoes are comfortable shoes to wear in camp. I like to pack a pair of moccasins or "Aqua Socks" to wear while relaxing after a long day's hiking. Nothing feels better than putting on a pair of comfortable old friends at the end of the day. They should slip on and off easily for those late night trips to "the Kybo" (latrine for non-scouters).

R.E.I	Vasque [®] , Merrell [®] , Montrail [®]	Approx.	\$50 - 100
Sports Authority	Hi-Tec [®] , Technica [®]	approx.	\$50.00 - 75.00
CAMPMOR	Columbia Rock Ridge III [®]	#10730	\$57.99
	Montrail TRS Comp II	#19916	\$89.99
Target	Timberland [®] Hiking Boots	approx.	\$30 - 50.

Backpacking requires a boot that will combine good support, sole rigidity, and flexibility. The ankle-high uppers should be either all leather or a fabric and leather combination. These boots should be tried on at the store wearing the heavier hiking socks. Typically a store which sells these boots will have ramps to walk on and good salespersons to insure the proper fit. This is vital when you consider the use the boots will be put to.

CAMPMOR	Vasque Sundowner II	#11170	\$174.99
	Merrell Summit	#11444	\$99.99
	Vasque Renegade	#11360	\$149.99
	Vasque Clarion Gore-Tex	#10188	\$159.99
	Technica Shasta	#11690	\$119.99

Exterior Clothing & Underwear

Clothing selection can make or break a camping trip. Too often we plan for warm sunshine only to experience bone chilling dampness or the dreaded Troop campout monsoon. I cringe every

time I see a scout show up for a trip wearing all cotton blue jeans and a T-shirt or a 100% cotton sweatsuit. While cotton is a comfortable fabric when dry, it turns clammy and clingy when wet and can literally suck the heat out of a body and threaten the scout with hypothermia. It doesn't have to be raining for clothes to get wet. The perspiration from ordinary activities can dampen clothes enough to cause a significant chill for any person.

My personal choice of clothing materials is a cotton/polyester blend. Its no accident that Boy Scout uniforms are made of these materials. Boy Scout uniforms also come in earth tones that resist showing most outdoor dirt and grime. Cotton/poly work clothes are an excellent second choice for outdoor activities where Boy Scout uniforms aren't appropriate. I also favor loose fitting clothes that allow freedom of movement, circulate air in warm weather, and trap heat in winter.

For extreme cold weather conditions nothing is better than wool or synthetics for both under and outer wear. I like to pack an extra pair of polypropylene long johns to extend the comfort range of my sleeping bag.

For warm weather activities cotton/poly or synthetic shorts with a mesh liner are cool, comfortable and allow campers to forgo packing underwear, much to the parent's or guardian's dismay. A comfortable T-shirt completes the warm weather ensemble. Scouting shirts and shorts are perfect choices for summer camping. It should be apparent that I strongly advocate the wearing of the Boy Scout uniform for all scout activities.

BSA	Boy Scout Uniforms		
	Short Sleeve Shirt	approx.	\$23 - 35
	Long Sleeve Shirt		\$28 - 44
	Scout Activity Polo Shirt		\$18 - 24
	Scout Pants		\$36 - 50
	Scout Shorts		\$30 - 44
	Scout T-shirt		\$16 - 24.
	Scout Cap		\$9.80 - 22.25
CAMPMOR	Polypropylene Balaclava		\$5.99
	Long Johns Polypropylene	approx.	\$12 - 30 each
	Brands: Duofold®	Wickers®	

Rainwear

For mild weather conditions with occasional showers an inexpensive vinyl poncho will suffice. Cheap ones are lightweight and might only last a couple of camp outs. Heavier ones last longer but are more expensive. Take your choice. A poncho has enough interior airflow to keep the underside dry in most conditions plus it can be laid out flat as an emergency ground cloth or rigged as a shelter. Rainsuits are a very good choice but can be trouble getting into. Gore Tex rainwear offers excellent protection but I think the cost places it beyond the scope of this discussion. You get what you pay for when it comes to rainwear. You do not need to buy the best but being cheap can result in a very wet scout.

Keep in mind that your Troop's outdoor camping track record would probably indicate that rain is always in the forecast.

BSA	Heavy Duty Vinyl Poncho	#Z00669	\$11.75
	Backpack Poncho	#Z668	\$15.40
CAMPMOR	Heavy Duty Poncho	#90026	\$17.99
	Rainsuit Back Packer (waterproof nylon)	#30321 (Parka)	\$49.99
		#30322 (Pants)	\$39.99
	Gore Tex Parka	approx.	\$110 - 345
	Pants	approx.	\$80 - 255
	Backpack Poncho	#90028	\$21.99

Camping Gear

Sleeping Pads

Your scout will undoubtedly try to spend more time sleeping than doing any other single outdoor activity. Good sleep equipment is a necessary investment that will help him get the rest he needs to make the most of his outdoor adventures. Nobody likes to huddle all night long in a cold sleeping bag on hard, rocky ground. You can not believe how long the night is when you are cold and uncomfortable.

Scouts can somehow manage to sleep on the hardest surface but they still need some insulation from the cold. Even on a mild night the earth can suck the heat right out of a body quickly, even if the scout is wrapped in a good sleeping bag. A closed-cell foam pad will provide insulation from cold surfaces and weighs mere ounces. It can also be used as a sitting pad for keeping butts off the damp grass when sitting around the campsite and they're indestructible unless you use them for fire fuel. Of course old folks like myself need some extra assistance in the form of thick, soft, open cell foam or a self-inflating type pad for sleeping.

Avoid an air mattress. The good ones are heavy and expensive, the cheap ones leak, hiss, and they all conduct the cold in winter. As far as pranks go, pulling the plug on your buddy's air mattress ranks right up there with putting a rock in his pack at every rest stop on a hike. If you must sleep on air, the Therm-a-Rest® brand provides a unique combination of air mattress and foam pad that's compact and self-inflating. I personally use one; they are excellent to rest one's old bones on after a day of camp activities. Inflatable pads and mattresses should be kept away from the flying hot embers found around campfires (unless one enjoys sleeping on hard surfaces).

BSA	Ridge Rest® (48")	#Z01400	\$23.00
	Self Inflating	#Z1011	\$42.75

CAMPMOR	Z-Rest (72") Therm-a-Rest®		#41106	\$24.95
	Staytek™ 72"L	1 ½" Thick	#47603	\$59.99
	CampRest 72"L	2" Thick	#47605	\$79.99
	LE Full 72"L	2" Thick	#41035	\$99.95
	LE CampRest 72"L	2" Thick	#41038	\$129.95

Sleeping Bag

I have seen two extremes in sleeping bag selection. First is the new scout who brings a "slumber bag" to campouts. You know, the ones with cartoon characters emblazoned all over them. Besides setting themselves up for ridicule, these things just aren't made to withstand the rigors of Boy Scout camping. Second is the scout who brings an overly large, heavy, canvas and flannel bag that might be more appropriate for a guided hunting trip in the Alaska during late November twenty or thirty years ago.

The majority of a Troop's camping activity occurs during the milder months. A well made, lightweight sleeping bag is usually enough for ordinary trips. When you're ready for winter camping you can always supplement it with blankets, a quilt, or an extra sleeping bag. I've made do for years on my few cold weather trips each year by placing one mild weather bag inside another and wearing long johns and warm, dry socks to bed. I finally purchased a winter bag recently. I now understand how warm a person can be while winter camping.

Avoid down filled bags like the plague. If you've ever washed a down filled bag or jacket you'll realize just how useless these things are if they happen to get soaked. They take forever to dry and have the insulating efficiency of a bag of rocks until they dry out and fluff up, which might take a couple of days. Stick with synthetic filled bags (i.e., Polarguard®, Hollofil®, Quallofil®, Lite Loft™). They're cheaper and can remain functional even if they get soaked in a downpour or canoeing "accident". I prefer bags with a nylon cover and liner and 2-3 pounds of synthetic fill. The more synthetic fill used typically means the greater warmth when it gets cold. Remember that your Scout is going to have to carry this thing for the next couple of years. Purchase a bag that comes with a "stuff sack". Stuffing a bag into a sack is a lot easier than trying to roll one up and produces a better looking package. Stuffing distributes the wear to help the bag last longer and the empty stuff bag can be filled with extra clothes and used for a pillow to rest your weary head on. The stuff sack can be strapped on a backpack for wilderness backpacking trips.

3 Season Bags

BSA	Cumulus	40°	#Z01805	\$24.50
	Everlite®	32°	#Z01668	\$89.00

CAMPMOR	Slumberjack® SoLite®	40°	#44101	\$59.99
	Slumberjack Red Thunder®	20°	#64470	\$59.99
	Slumberjack Equinox	15°	#67801	\$99.99
	Slumberjack Soltice	0°	#67803	\$139.99

4 Season Bags

BSA	Big Game Deluxe	-5°	#Z1818	\$107.50
	Exponent Omnitemp™	0°	#Z01824	\$99.95
	Cascade	10°	#Z01424	\$71.50
	Arcadia	25°	#Z01821	\$54.50
	Cartier	0°	#Z01813	\$69.50
CAMPMOR	Slumberjack Cataclysm 2	-30°	#67816	\$289.00
	Slumberjack -20	-20°	#64707	\$109.99
	Slumberjack Expedition	-30°	#41015	\$149.99

Eating Utensils

There isn't much difference in functionality between a set of outdoor eating utensils and something purloined from the kitchen drawer. Of course, no self-respecting scout would be caught dead eating with the family's stainless steel flatware. You just got have the outdoor stuff. You're just not cool if you don't. Luckily, a set only should cost a couple of bucks.

Likewise, there's a certain amount of outdoor romance associated with drinking from a tin cup. The classic "sierra cup" is the quintessential outdoor utensil and you can always use it as a pot to heat soup or coffee. If I'm hungry or thirsty I'll always want more than I can put in that puny cup. Besides, you've got to bring along a pot to cook supper in anyway. The sierra cup can be used in place of bowls and plates when you are backpacking. I've also discovered that a sierra metal cup quickly cools down coffee or cocoa to the temperature of whatever you set it on. At first fill its too hot to hold. You quickly and carefully put it down and, next thing you know, the contents are chilled. In the wisdom of my old age I've tossed an insulated metallic cup in my pack for that all to necessary cup of coffee.

I also have a plastic plate to hold my meal while I eat it. It insulates better than an aluminum plate, doesn't dent, and weighs only an ounce and, unlike paper plates, it can be used over and over. I use a Lexan® bowl or my Sierra Cup for my "5 alarm" chili and morning bowl of bran flakes.

BSA	Cook Kit		#Z01200	\$22.95
	Sierra Cup (8 oz.)		#Z01206	\$8.25

	Vitt-L Kit	#Z01244	\$9.95
	Lexan Utensil Set	#Z01768	\$2.75
CAMPMOR	Coleman® Peak I Solo Mess Kit	#80232	\$24.99
	Coleman Economy Mess Kit	#21222	\$5.99
	Open Country Mess Kit	#82005	\$10.99
	Lexan Utensils	#80756	\$2.99
	Deluxe Cutlery Set	#23101	\$3.99

Canteens

A scout will also need a container to carry drinking water. Again, while there are certain folks who've just got to have the traditional outdoor item, I've come up with my own practical solution. I use a 1-liter bottle made of PET, that miracle plastic that soda and water bottles are made of. They're available in any grocery store in a variety of sizes and filled with water! Mine fits neatly into a pocket of my pack. Every couple of trips I simply replace the bottle with a new one.

BSA	2 qt. Canteen	#Z01202	\$24.25
	1 ½ qt. Canteen	#Z01199	\$21.75
	Typical BSA canteen cost range		\$5.25-22.50
CAMPMOR	Lexan Bottle (32 oz.)	#80351	\$6.50
	Carry Case	#01193	\$6.50
	Typical canteen cost range		\$6.50 – 19.99

Hydration pouches are becoming widely used by Scouts while hiking and backpacking. The pouch when used with a drinking tube allows the Scout to drink while active. The pouch will not be a great substitute for a lexan bottle but they offer several advantages to the Scout. The hydration pouch requires a bit more care than the traditional canteen. The pouch can be worn on a belt or strapped on the Scout's backpack.

BSA	Collapsible Water Bottle (1 liter)	#Z1003	\$6.25
	Insulated Pouch Holder	#Z1120	\$13.95
CAMPMOR	Platypus® I Holster™ (1 liter)	#12338	\$13.99
	Platypus Hiker (1.8 liter)	#62937	\$29.95
	MSR® Hydromedary™ (2 liter)	#87748	\$26.95

Packs

Whenever a scout goes camping he'll need something to carry his "stuff" in. Some troops are

into wilderness backpacking trips, others stick to close-in car camping. All Troops try to balance the outdoor camping experience for the scouts. A large zippered duffel that will hold everything except the sleeping bag is just the ticket for car camping. However, at some point in his Scouting career your scout will probably want to go backpacking. For that he'll need a quality backpack that fits well. A backpack can be used for car camping but a duffel bag is darned uncomfortable to carry for several miles.

Now don't rush right down to the local discount store and buy any backpack. The scout will be eager, but wait a while. A duffel bag with a carry strap will probably suffice for the first year of camping trips. Talk with your Troop leaders about which type of packs they prefer and the types of trips they take. After all, they're the experts with whom you trust your scouts. Their opinion should be worth something. Shop around, look into used equipment and watch for sales. Good packs can be had for a reasonable price if you are patient and willing to search. A first criterion is to make sure that it fits. An ill-fitting pack can be murder on a long hike. Keep in mind that the scout will grow and styles will change. If a boy sticks with the Boy Scout program he'll probably outgrow his first pack anyway. The second time around he can get the pack that's going to take him through middle age. External frame packs are the best choice for the "first" pack.

BSA	Camptrail® Comfortflex™	#Z01336	\$78.95
	Coleman Peak I	#Z01315	\$138.00
	Camptrail Adjustable II	#Z01304	\$104.00
	Black Bull Jr.	#Z01359	\$104.50
	Black Bull Horizon Combo	#Z01344	\$145.00
	Camptrails McKinley	#Z01358	\$115.00
	Philmont surplus (reconditioned)	approx.	\$50 - 75
CAMPMOR	CampTrails Adjustable II	#60073	\$69.99
	Camp Trails McKinley	#60079	\$69.99
	Kelty® Trekker	#60681	\$99.97
	Kelty & Jansport® cost range		\$60 - 120

Internal frame packs are excellent for "brush busting" through the rugged outback. This pack is narrower than the external framed pack. Everything the scout brings is packed inside this pack rather than lashing items to the pack outside as is the case of the external frame pack. Internal frame packs have advantages that the older, more experienced scout will realize. This is a good choice for a scout who has out-grown his external framed pack. The internal frame pack will be easier to transport in a car trunk, by train, or airplane. This is a consideration for any scout who is active in the High Adventure Scout program.

BSA	Eureka® Velocity	#Z01298	\$109.00
	Tripper Pack	#Z01663	\$121.00
	Taco Comfort Flex®	#Z01661	\$189.99
	Camp Trails Paragon	#Z01297	\$146.00

CAMPMOR	Camp Trails Eureka	Dana Design® Lowe®	Gregory®	\$100 to \$320
R.E.I.	Greatstar			\$200

Tenting

Check with troop leaders before investing in a tent. Your Troop will have a supply of tents for the scout to use. If you choose to buy a personal tent get a quality product. Remember that a tent is the only thing between the weather, things that go Grrrr in the night, and a scout. Few things are more demoralizing than pitching your tent carefully and correctly only to have it leak and awaken in a large puddle the next morning. Plus, a good tent can last several scouting "careers". Three person size tents allow two scouts and their equipment to be kept inside and dry. Since tents are a long-term investment they make good candidates for troop and/or patrol fund raising projects. When you buy a tent don't forget a sheet of polyethylene for use as a ground cloth to keep the dampness in the ground and out of your tent and sleeping bag. The difference between a good tent and ground cloth could be dry scouts or wet, miserable scouts.

BSA	Dome Tents	Eureka	Free Spirit	BSA Wall Tents
CAMPMOR	Eureka	Sierra Design	North Face	Coleman

A good tent will cost approx. \$100 to \$600.

Flashlights

Few things are more frustrating than fumbling in the dark to find your stuff and nothing can chase away the imaginary "boogie men" of the dark like a good flashlight. When I was young there was a contest to see who could have the biggest and brightest light. The illumination arms race finally ended when I got my hands on one of the first portable spotlights. The thing was Korean War surplus, big as a breadbox, and weighed about ten pounds. I'd won the "war" but the thing attracted every bug in a six-mile radius. I couldn't use it for more than a few minutes at a time.

The problem in nighttime illumination is not whether you can signal the space shuttle in orbit or light up a mountain a half mile away. Rather it's the ability to find the latrine and see that rock just a step away before you trip over it.

In the wisdom of old age I've learned to survive quite comfortably with an inexpensive, dual AA cell, pocket flashlight that only weighs a couple of ounces. Its always in a handy pocket of my pack and is slipped into a pants pocket at dusk. The AA Mag-Lite® brand or any of its imitators are excellent choices.

BSA	Flashlight costs		\$4.15 – 25.75
CAMPMOR	Flashlight costs	approx.	\$3.99 - 23.99
	MiniMag® Mag-Lite AA	#80524	\$9.99

Chemical light sticks have become very popular for use in tents and nighttime games. They are safe and non-toxic. The light generated by the chemical reaction can last from 30 minutes to twelve hours. The length of time is dependent on the light stick size and the temperature conditions it is being used in. The light sticks do present a disposal problem and should recycled if possible. All Scouts should be environmentally conscious and dispose of their waste materials properly.

BSA	Light Stick (12 hour)	#Z01363	\$2.15
	Light Stick, 4 package (12 hour)	#Z01665	\$8.25
CAMPMOR	Mini Stick (3 hour)	#12860	\$0.99
	4" Light Stick (6 hour)	#12861	\$2.00
	6" Light Stick (12 hour)	#12862	\$2.60

Compass & GPS

A scout must always carry the ten essentials with him on any outing. Compass and first aid kits are integral parts of the scout's ten essentials. I have my compass that I received as a Tenderfoot Scout over 35 years ago. I have replaced it with a newer (and more expensive model) but a more expensive compass does not necessarily buy more accuracy or ease of use. A trained orienteer can use any compass with equal accuracy.

BSA	Typical costs		\$7.95-39.95
CAMPMOR	Silva® Explorer	#81202	\$19.99
	Ranger	#81208	\$45.99
	Brunton Eclipse GPS Compass	#60742	\$29.99
	Brunton Eclipse 8099	#83522	\$74.95

The Global Positioning System (GPS) is an extremely accurate means to determine your precise location. The GPS was developed for the military during the 1980's. It uses satellite transmission to triangulate the position of the receiver. Rental car agencies are using similar devices to insure you never get lost.

The GPS hand-held units have become competitively priced and attractive to the Scout. The GPS unit is not a substitute for orienteering skills developed by the Scout during rank advancement. The Scout will not benefit from these expensive and complex devices if he has not understood the concepts of compass use and map reading. A Scout's knowledge and skills are not automatically improved through the purchase of more expensive equipment. The use of a GPS unit requires a great deal of study of the instructional manual for unit. Unlike the compass, the GPS unit requires batteries for its use. The GPS unit is becoming a part of the Scout program for orienteering. The experienced Scout will find the use of the unit a lot of fun and new areas of adventure become open to him.

Cabela's	Magellan [®]	Eagle [®]	Approx.	\$110 - 600
	Garmin [®]	Lowrance [®]		

First-Aid Kits

Bug bites, cuts, scrapes, blisters, need I say more. Every scout must carry a personal first-aid kit. The Troop always brings the Troop first-aid kit but it is the responsibility of every scout to "Be Prepared".

BSA	Scout Personal	#Z01093	\$7.95
	Camper	#Z01092	\$17.50
CAMPMOR	Adventure [®] Medical Trail™ Kit	#83628	\$19.99
	Hiker	#80477	\$24.99

Knives & Axes

Nothing captures a scout's fascination faster than a knife or axe. They are drawn to them like a moth to a candle. There must be a basic urge that drive the scout to the axe yard. The requirements of knife and axe safety are detailed in the Boy Scout Handbook. A scout must be trained in safe handling and care of these tools. The scout receives the Totin Chip that allows him to carry a knife or use an axe.

The best knife for a scout is one that has been developed for the needs of scouting. The BSA Scout knife meets these requirements. Several other knife manufacturers also provide knives for the scout. Recently a new multi-purpose tool was developed by Leatherman[®] and copied by other companies. This combination knife tool is gaining much favor among scouts and scouters.

The BSA strongly discourages the use of sheath knives by scouts. Many BSA Councils have prohibited the scout from carrying any sheath knife.

A good axe is needed to split and cut firewood. A bow saw will cut firewood faster. But the scout gets great satisfaction by swinging the axe and chopping wood. A hand axe or a felling axe is the tools permitted by the BSA for this job. The BSA for use permits no full size axe by a scout.

Knife and axe safety is the highest priority. The BSA motto is “Be Prepared”. The use of knives and axes by a scout requires him to “Be Prepared and Safe”.

BSA	Knives	Traditional BSA		\$14.25 - 28.95
		BSA Lock Back		\$28.55 - 37.00
		Swiss Army®		\$10.95 – 79.00
		Swiss Army Multi-Tool	#Z01786	\$79.95
BSA	Axes	Hand Axe	#Z01164	\$25.50
		Felling Axe	#Z01238	\$27.25
CAMPMOR	Knives	Swiss Army		\$13 - 60
		Leatherman Multi-Purpose Tool		\$20 - 60
	Axes	Estwing® Hand Axe	#81016	\$36.99
		Estwing Felling Axe	#81024	\$46.99

Remember; avoid buying “designer” camping equipment. Consult with the experienced Troop leaders for advice. Camping is an exciting experience for both scouts and adults. The best thing is that you can have a great time and not spend a fortune doing it.



Acknowledgments:

My fellow Scouters whose knowledge and wisdom I have used over the years and stories I have retold in this paper.

The pricing listed reflects information gathered during the year 2001. Consult your BSA catalog or designated retailer for current pricing.

Where to Shop

BSA	Deicke Scout Shop 155 W. Roosevelt Rd. West Chicago, IL (630) 231-3192	Norris Scout Shop 415 N. 2nd St. St. Charles, IL (630) 584-9250
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BSA (Distributors)	Contact Three Fires Council - BSA names & locations at (630) 584-9850
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Locally	Target Sports Authority Eastern Mountain Sports	Kmart Service Merchandise Galayan's	Sports Mart R.E.I. Wal-Mart
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Mail Order	CAMP MOR http://www.campmor.com	(800) 230-2151	L.L. Bean http://www.llbean.com/	(800) 221-4221
	BSA http://www.bsa.scouting.org	(800) 323-0732	REI http://www.rei.com	(800) 426-4840
	Cabela's http://www.cabelas.com	(800) 237-4444		

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