

Camping List Suggestions by Lee Desantis

What to bring on the canoeing / rafting / camping / to have an all around great adventure

The fourth annual river and camping event will be another great event as even more people are expected than in previous years. Among the new participants there may be a few that are new to camping. The following is a loose guideline of things you may want to bring along and what to expect:

Basic Camping Supplies:

- **Tent with a rain fly** (yeah sometimes it rains on our fun too. A couple of years ago it got really exciting, but our fellow Craigmourites persevered and had fun. In lieu of a rain fly, a tarp over the tent will work also, but its best to support it, up, off the tent itself to keep the run-off away from becoming run-in.
- **Air mattress or foam pad.** The ground is fairly cleared and level at the camp site but it's always nicer to get up on something soft to sleep on. How big you go here all depends on how comfy you want to get. Check out Sue and Larry's set up from last year!

<http://www.definingelegance.com/blog/?s=camping>

As a test, lay it out on a hardwood or tile floor and see how it feels. The nights in NY can get a little chilly, however in the past few years a normal weight sleeping bag or a couple of blankets was adequate. Don't forget your pillow.

- **Flashlight or headlamp.** As dark closes in around the camp, a flashlight or headlamp is always helpful. It makes finding the bathroom without tripping much easier. The shower / bathroom will be within walking distance from our campsites. The newer L.E.D. flashlights are big improvements. They are lightweight, inexpensive, and bright enough for most occasions.
- **Adequate clothing.** The evenings and morning can be a bit brisk, but the days generally warm up nicely to where shorts or bathing suits are perfect. Water shoes or an old pair of sneakers are a good idea for Saturday's river trip in case you need to walk in the river to protect your feet from rocks. You may also want to use them to walk to the swimming pool at the campground.
- **Rain gear.** As I mentioned earlier, we've gotten some rain during the trip in past years. Bring rain gear. At Craigmour Ski Club, we can have fun through anything, but even more so when we are dry!

On the Water:

We'll be in the boats for a few hours floating down the river, bring whatever **snacks or lunch, drinks** that you would like to have on the river trip. Glass containers are prohibited on the river. Kittatiny supplies paddles and life jackets with the boat rental, but if you have your own that you would rather wear, feel free to bring it along. Expect anything you have in the boat to get wet unless you have it in a **waterproof container**. Walmart has a couple different sized small dry boxes for under \$10.00 for the essentials that you want to keep protected (i.e. camera, wallet, etc.). Zip lock bags work well too, and can be nestled inside a knapsack. On a more grand scale, I've known people to use old Spackle buckets (with a lid) to keep their bigger stuff dry (tee shirts, towel, etc.). **Coolers with an attached lid** tend to be easier than ones that have separate lids that can slide off as things slush around in the bottom of a boat that might have some water in it (who brought the water gun?). A bungee cord across the top can help keep things in place (or in the boat as the case may be).

We have had very nice sunny days for the past trips and are hoping for the same this year. **If you tend to burn, bring sunscreen**! There isn't any shade on the water.

Food at the Campsite:

We will be enjoying Oliver's cooking for more than half of the meals. He will have plastic ware and paper plates for these meals. **You are on your own for Saturday breakfast (if any) and Saturday lunch and / or snacks on the water. Also bring any snacks for Friday and Saturday night around the fire. Don't forget the smores!**

Finally, bring anything you want to drink during the weekend.

Extras:

- **Bug spray** for obvious reasons. A fabric softener sheet works around the tent to help repel bugs. I don't know how someone figured this little trick out but, it does actually help.
- **A camping lantern** is nice addition for lighting up tables or near tents but not an essential for this trip as there will be a couple floating around.
- You shouldn't need a camp stove unless you wanted to cook something for breakfast on Saturday morning. However, it is highly advisable to have a quick breakfast like donuts. Keep in mind we'll be heading to the boats around 9am.

- **A hammer** for staking down the tent pegs (again, there will be a couple of these around too if you don't have one)
- **String** (clothes lines for drying wet stuff from boat, hanging stuff on the cars works too)
- **Pocket knife** (making marshmallow sticks)
- **Duct tape** (need I say more?)
- **Ground cover tarp** (depending on the type of tent you are using, some don't need it)
- **Camp chairs** (folding ones are easier)
- **A plastic box with lid** to keep any dry food you bring in (keeps any little critters from getting into it while you sleep) locking the dry food in your car will work too.
- **Frisbee, hacky sack, basketball, deck of cards, right-left-center dice, etc.** (we'll be camped next to a field, plenty of room after to mess around after the day trippers cars leave)

Note: There is a small store at the campground that has some of the basics if you forget something. They also sell ice. There is also a couple of stores within about 15 minutes drive from the campground for some other items that the camp store might not have.

Some veteran campers have acquired extra stuff over the years and have offered to loan them to people that might need to borrow something for the weekend rather than going on a shopping spree at Walmart. If you do need to borrow something, please ask at the meetings or send a request via the Craigmear Ski Club Yahoo group:

<http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/CraigmearSkiClubList/>