Winter Camping Checklist

Winter camping requires more gear than summer camping. Our comprehensive checklist is designed to keep you from forgetting anything important.



The Ten Essentials

- [ ] 1. Navigation
- [ ] 2. Sun protection
- [ ] 3. Insulation
- [ ] 4. Illumination
- [ ] 5. First-aid supplies
- [ ] 6. Fire
- [ ] 7. Repair kit and tools
- [ ] 8. Nutrition
- [ ] 9. Hydration
- [ ] 10. Emergency shelter

Beyond the Ten Essentials

- [ ] Backpack
- [ ] Daypack or summit pack
- [ ] 4-season tent or tarp or bivy sack
- [ ] Snow or tent stakes and guylines

- [ ] Tent-pole repair sleeve
- [ ] Footprint (if needed for tent)
- [ ] Sleeping bag (liner optional)
- [ ] Stuff sack or compression sack
- [ ] 2 sleeping pads per person (+ optional chair kit)
- [ ] Pillow or stuffable pillowcase
- [ ] Packable lantern
- [ ] Snowshoes
- [ ] Skis (with skins)
- [ ] Crampons
- [ ] Ice axe
- [ ] Trekking poles (with snow baskets)
- [ ] Multifunction watch with altimeter
- [ ] Signaling mirror (often on compass)
- [ ] Whistle
- [ ] Personal locator beacon (PLB)
- [ ] Avalanche transceiver (1 per person)
- [ ] Avalanche probe (1 per person)
- [ ] Snow shovel (1 per person)
- [ ] Energy beverages or drink mixes
- [ ] Slope meter
- [ ] Snow saw
- [ ] Meals
- [ ] Energy food (bars, gels, chews, trail mix)
- [ ] Energy food (bars, gels, chews, trail mix)
- [ ] Fuel
- [ ] Cookset with large pot (for melting snow)
- [ ] Dishes or bowls
- [ ] Utensils
- [ ] Cups (measuring cups)
- [ ] Pot grabber
- [ ] Food-storage sacks or canister

- [ ] 50' nylon cord
- [ ] Backup water treatment (e.g., halogens)

Clothing

- [ ] Base layer: wicking underwear
- [ ] Mid layer: insulating jacket/vest/pants
- [ ] Shell: rain jacket (or soft-shell jacket)
- [ ] Rain pants (or soft-shell pants)
- [ ] Dry clothing for camp
- [ ] Insulating hat, cap or headband
- [ ] Balaclava and/or face mask
- [ ] Goggles
- [ ] Gloves and/or mittens
- [ ] Waterproof overmitts

Footwear; Assorted Personal Items

- [ ] Insulated boots
- [ ] Main socks, liner socks, spare socks
- [ ] Gaiters
- [ ] Camp booties
- [ ] Bandana or Buff
- [ ] Hand warmers
- [ ] Toilet paper + sanitation trowel
- [ ] Toilet paper + sanitation trowel
- [ ] Toothbrush and/or toiletry kit
- [ ] Notebook and pen or pencil
- [ ] Permits
- [ ] Guidebook; interpretive field guide(s)
- [ ] Camera
- [ ] Binoculars
- [ ] Two-way radios
- [ ] Cell or satellite phone

- [ ] Music player with headphones
- [ ] Small amount of cash or credit card
- [ ] Trip itinerary left with friend + under car seat

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