

Troop 2 East Greenwich

Gear Guide for New Scouts – Uniform and Basic Gear

Once a scout completes the BSA Joining Requirements and earns the rank of Scout, they are expected to wear the full BSA uniform (Class A) to Troop meetings. The class A uniform is required for summer camp and most public Scout functions. The class B uniform, which substitutes the BSA uniform shirt for the Troop 2 T-shirt, is required on most campouts, hikes and service projects. Proper footwear (always required) and the Boy Scout Handbook are considered part of the uniform.

Boy Scout Uniform* and Handbook**

BSA uniform shirt + insignia	Class A uniform	Boy Scout Handbook, pen and note paper Hiking boots or sturdy sneakers *A uniform closet is available. **Each new Scout should purchase the most recent edition of the Boy Scout Handbook.
BSA uniform pants/shorts	} Class A and Class B uniform	
BSA socks		
BSA belt	} Class B uniform	
Troop ball cap		
Troop T-shirt		

Troop insignia “East Greenwich”, “R1”, the unit numeral “2” and green shoulder loops can be purchased at the Scout store. Insignia are sewn to the uniform (see the inside front and rear cover of the Boy Scout Handbook for location).

Basic Essentials

New Scouts need the following gear to participate in most Troop 2 overnight adventures. Information to help parents find and select the right gear follows on the next page. Only the following basic essentials are needed right away.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold-all bag, backpack or duffle bag (60 to 80 Liters) • Sleeping bag (synthetic). Select ratings 20 degrees lower than expected outside air temperature. • Sleeping pad • Rain gear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water bottle(s), 0.5-1.0 liter • Flashlight or headlamp (with fresh batteries) • Toiletry/Shower Kit Toothbrush, toothpaste (travel size), Face cloth, Soap (travel size) [liquid body wash], Comb. • Mess Kit and Utensil Kit (knife, fork, spoon)
---	--

Scouts will need clothing appropriate for the season as well as additional items like bathing suit, sunblock, insect repellent, etc. depending on the type of adventure. Patrol leaders will let Scouts know what they need for each specific trip beyond the basic essentials (including food). Each Scout should always be prepared with the basics essentials above. For a list of essentials and discussion of camping and camping gear, see the Boy Scout Handbook, 14th edition, p.238-239, and section 9. Add to that list an emergency whistle like the Fox 40 Classic.

As Scouts advance in the BSA program, they will need to acquire all the basic Scout essentials, including the following:

Scout pocketknife (<i>Scouts with or working on Totin' Chip</i>) Compass (<i>required for Scouts 2nd class and above</i>) First aid kit (<i>required for Scouts 2nd class and above</i>)	Fire starter kit (<i>Scouts with or working on Firem'n Chit</i>) Whistle, emergency type (ex. Fox 40 classic) Watch, waterproof
--	---

Items like internal frame backpacks, backpacking stoves, winter sleeping bags, dry bags and fishing gear may become useful as the Scouts advance and try more challenges. These items make great gifts throughout a boy's Scouting career.



Troop 2 East Greenwich

Gear Guide for New Scouts – Uniform and Basic Gear

Basic Essentials Described

The following information is intended to help parents identify and select the right gear for their Scout(s). Most of the basic essentials are described here. To the right of each description is one or more representative picture(s) of each item, an identification of similar products and their approximate retail value for comparison. Most products are available at outdoor equipment retailers like EMS and REI and many discount stores like Wal-mart and Target.

Hold-all/Duffle bag

A large bag can easily hold a backpackable sleeping bag, sleeping pad, small pillow, mess kit, gear, and clothes for a 3 day weekend. Great for most trips and bumper camping. Look for top access, heavy duty zippers, heavy straps and end pockets.

M: 12 x 12 x 24 in (3456 in³, 56L)

L: 12 x 15 x 26 in (4680 in³, 77L)

XL: 15 x 15 x 32 in (7200 in³, 118L)



Sleeping bag

A 20F bag is great for 3 season camping and can be easy to care for. With a blanket or additional liner, a 20F bag can work for mild winter camping. The 0F bags are too hot for 3 season use and can be harder to take care of if they contain down. Look for man-made fiber insulation and a stuff sack.



Sleeping pad

A polyethylene foam pad with separate compression straps (extra) is durable and a light-weight self inflating pad with built-in compression straps packs tighter. Don't get an air mattress, they are too heavy to carry.



Self-inflating, Foam Therm-A-Rest

Toiletry/Shower Kit

A small kit to hold a toothbrush, toothpaste, face cloth, liquid body wash, comb, and other small personal items.

Almost any small waterproof bag will do, even a heavy duty zip-lock.



Zip lock bag, Ditty Bags

Troop 2 East Greenwich

Gear Guide for New Scouts – Uniform and Basic Gear

Mess Kit or Meal Kit

Aluminum – Lightweight but durability questionable these days.

Steel - strong but heavy. Plastic light & cheap but not as durable.

Titanium – ultimate lightweight and very durable but can be expensive unless you shop for good deals.

1.6L Pot/Pan sets do double duty for backpack cooking.



Pot/Pan kit, Meal Kit

Utensil Kit

Long handled flat edged spoon, works for bagged meals and doubles as a scraper for cleanup. Pocketknife doubles as eating knife. Or a travel utensil kit.



Spoon, Utensil Kit

Daypack

If your scout already has a backpack style “book bag”, it is likely they already have a suitable daypack. Look for padded shoulder straps, chest and waist harness and mesh side pockets for water bottles. Some larger water bladder packs double as a day pack. 30L is a good size.



Pocketknife

Folding pocketknives that have lock open blades or sheathed fixed blade knives are safer than the non-locking “swiss army” style knives. Blade length must be 3 inches or less.



Troop 2 East Greenwich

Gear Guide for New Scouts – Uniform and Basic Gear

Hiking Footwear

“GTX” style hiking boots with breathable water proofing (ex Goretex) provide a good mix of water repellency, performance, and comfort. Treated leather boots provide greater warmth, stability and durability but are heavier and less comfortable. Nikwax is a great water treatment but get the proper kind for your type of boot.



Hiking Socks / Winter Socks

The standard BSA uniform socks not only look great, but they are designed to keep a Scout’s feet cool and dry, so you should already have what you need. Note that two pairs of socks are always recommended for hiking. If not buying BSA, look for a wool blend. Darn tough is guaranteed for life.



BSA Uniform standard, Thorlos, Darn Tough

Footlocker

Footlockers are recommended for summer camp because they can hold a week’s worth of clothes and gear and they are lockable. Size no larger than 34 inches in length.



Camp Trunk/Footlocker.



108 QT Waterproof Trunk

Backpack

Consider a full-size backpack for older Scouts that are ready for backpacking. Look for a lightweight internal frame backpack. with padded hip belt, adjustable shoulder straps, adjustable torso length, mesh side pockets for water bottles, zippered side pockets for gear, separate sleeping bag compartment, rain cover, side gear straps, and sleeping pad straps. Constructed using ripstop nylon, 4 – 5 lbs. weight when empty. Osprey and Gregory are quality packs. Size: 60L to 70L. 65 might be the sweet spot.



Osprey Aether 65L