

Wanapitei Voyageur II Clothing and Equipment list 2008

Clothing and equipment is incredibly important on all V2 trips simply because of the nature of the trips. You will be traveling for 7 weeks in a far north remote wilderness environment. Weather is varied and gear takes a beating. For 2008 you are traveling into the central barren lands. The environment here is particularly unique (ie. varied and extreme). It is critical that your clothing and equipment is up to the task. You can expect temperature extremes from 30C to 0 or even minus 5C. When it's hot it can be really hot – remember there is close to 24hr sun and there are no trees for shade, when it's cold it can feel really cold. If it's 1 degree, rainy and windy for 3 days in a row you want to be prepared. Remember wind chill greatly increases the cold and in the barrens it really can blow. If you are properly prepared then you will be able to truly enjoy this incredibly beautiful and varied environment, if you are not then...?

Equipment (Gear)

- ✓ 1 PFD- make sure it is in GOOD shape, comfortable, and Gov't approved (check seams and quality of material for sun damage)
- ✓ 1 flatwater paddle
- ✓ 1 whitewater paddle
- ✓ 2 whistles- one on your lifejacket and one for around your neck
- ✓ 1 whitewater helmet (make sure you can get a light fleece/wool hat, helmet liner underneath)
- ✓ 1 Thermarest and repair kit (we recommend a full length Thermarest because it can offer up a little more insulation from the perma-frosted ground) Also if you sleep cold consider the new down-xped sleeping pads (lighter weight and warmer – but costly)
- ✓ 1 Sleeping Bag (try and get a bag that is rated to at least minus 5 and consider adding a fleece or silk liner, especially if you sleep cold - a down bag does pack much smaller and is warmer but price can be a bit of a barrier. If your sleeping bag isn't quite as warm bring more long underwear/fleecy stuff). Down really is the warmest and smallest to pack. (silk liners are also a good option – light and warm).
- ✓ For your sleeping bag we'd also recommend a combo dry bag/compression sack (eg seattle sports) as they really are waterproof and pack small.
- ✓ 1 pack- **EVERYTHING** you bring needs to fit inside this pack except for your sleeping bag which we can put in food packs if necessary and sleeping pad. (Please only bring one pack (no mini barrels). If you were considering buying a barrel as your personal pack, please DON'T we are going to have very full boats!)
- ✓ Dry bags- make sure these are in good shape and of good quality (welded seams, good closure, good material!) Don't expect garbage bags to last 60 days.

Footwear

Feet are important! 52 days of whitewater, upstreams, portaging, etc. is very hard on your shoes. Footwear will take an incredible beating on a trip like this. You (and the whole group) can't afford to have your shoes fail. Make sure soles, seams etc are all in top notch shape. Brand new footwear is often ready for the trash by the end of a trip like this.

- ✓ 1 pair of "light hiking shoes/boots" (to be your wet shoes) (try and find something with durable but good grip soles – your going to be doing an awful lot of wet walking. They should be comfortable to wear and fit over neoprene/gortex socks.
- ✓ 1 pair of runners or a second pair of hiking boots if available (to be dry shoes/back up wet shoes. Hiking opportunities abound in the barrens so make sure these ones are comfortable for hiking.
- ✓ - and maybe a pair of plastic clogs or keens thrown in for good measure (don't throw them into the rapids)
- ✓ 1 pair of neoprene socks- these socks are NOT optional. We will be traveling upstream in very cold water and you will need/want your feet to stay warm. The neoprene socks should also be big enough to go over your Smartwool socks.
- ✓ 1 pair of Gortex socks- these are optional. (a very very good idea) They are great to keep your feet dry and foot-rot-free, however, they come at a cost! Great for campsites on wet days when you want dry feet.
- ✓ 2-3 pairs of mid weight Smartwool or wool socks (Wool works NOT COTTON)
- ✓ 2-3 pairs of polypropylene socks or lightweight/wool, wool liners
- ✓ 1-2 pairs of campsite(dry) socks- these can be whatever kind you want

Basic Clothing

- ✓ 2 pair of quick dry pants (1 pair should be heavy duty or 1 pair quick dry, one pair fleece pants, (bringing only 1 pair of pants not an option)
- ✓ 1 pair of quick dry shorts/bathing suit bottoms for the boys
- ✓ a couple of t-shirts (At least one of these should be lightweight wool eg smart wool)
- ✓ 2-3 long sleeve tops/ long underwear tops (at least one of these should be wool (eg smart wool) as its warmer than polypro (no cotton), 2nd can be polypro, silk works well as a 3rd).
- ✓ 2 long underwear bottoms (at least 1 of these wool (eg smart wool), 2nd can be by poly pro/synthetic)
- ✓ 1 Fleece/wool jacket
- ✓ 1 fleece/wool sweater
- ✓ 1 synthetic (ie fake down) jacket or pull over with a hood
- ✓ Underwear and bras (for the ladies☺) and make sure you bring enough warm wet clothing (clothing that is warm while wet-wool is best for this)! You will find that you need more then you think - bring enough! tops

Things to think about!

- ✓ Think layers

- ✓ Just to be cautious, we will be sleeping in clothes that haven't been cooked in. Keep this in mind when packing, and don't forget that it gets VERY cold at night in the far north.

Weather Clothing

- ✓ Waterproof jacket and pants- Gortex is a good option **but** just make sure it's durable and actually waterproof (old Goretex is often not) **AND BIG ENOUGH TO FIT WARM LAYERS UNDERNEATH IT**
- ✓ Paddling Jacket, this is optional but not a bad idea and means you can change into a warm/dry sweater and dry roomier raincoat at the end of a wet day.
- ✓ 1-2 hats- Fleece or wool
- ✓ 2 pair of mitts- Fleece or wool (also perhaps a pair of winter WATERPROOF gloves, or waterproof over mitts)
- ✓ Neoprene mitts- optional – but fabulous! (**Note: Mitts are warmer than gloves**) You do need mitts/gloves that you can paddle in and are warm when wet
- ✓ Scarf or neck pullover - Fleece or wool – very helpful in taking the chill off
- ✓ Sunhat with a brim
- ✓ Sunglasses- bring a solid case for them or they will probably get smushed, and a glasses safety cord (remember when its sunny it's really sunny)
- ✓ Bug Jacket- **THIS IS NOT OPTIONAL!** Get the good ones (they are more expensive but totally worth it. Bugs can be horrible!) (If you can get one that is roomy enough to get your arms and dinner plate inside - it is very very helpful – ie eat inside the jacket) (We do have a storm/bug shelter but sometimes its nice to be outside, even when its buggy) (*all were very much needed last summer*)

Other

- ✓ Flashlight/headlamp (small as you won't use this until the 2nd half of the trip if at all)
- ✓ Mug
- ✓ 1+ litre water bottle metal or Nalgene
- ✓ A Treat for the group ☺

Toiletries

- ✓ SUNSCREEN
- ✓ Lip balm with SPF
- ✓ Moisturizer- A good one especially for your hands
- ✓ Bug Spray- no aerosols
- ✓ Toothbrush and toothpaste
- ✓ Soap- liquid, biodegradable soap (i.e . campsuds) and scent free.(better for bugs and bears)
- ✓ Tampons and/or pads

- ✓ Contact solution/extra contacts/extra glasses
- ✓ Personal medications- we require that you have at least two sets of any prescription medication you are bringing. One set will remain in an emergency barrel. This is VERY important for things like asthma inhalers, epi pens, etc.
- ✓ Multivitamins - a suggestion

Other Optional Items

- ✓ Bandana
- ✓ Sewing Kit
- ✓ Journal
- ✓ Cards
- ✓ Books
- ✓ Guitar or other musical instrument (tell us if you plan on bringing it though! We don't want two guitars)
- ✓ Art supplies
- ✓ Camera and film
- ✓ Extra batteries
- ✓ Small dress up clothing
- ✓ Picture of loved ones
- ✓ **Fishing gear** You are traveling to one of the best fishing areas in the world. We'd recommend almost everyone bringing a rod (at least one for every two people as inevitably some will fail). Even if you have never fished you will enjoy the success of fishing on this trip.

Tent- please let us know if you have a personal tent that you are considering bringing. Keep in mind that there will be a fair amount of wear on it. The camp may be able to sell tents at a discount too. Talk to us if you are interested. Otherwise the camp does supply very good tents (Mountain Hardware Trango 4 Dome)!

What *not* to bring

Drugs or alcohol (obviously). There will be more on this in a future mailing closer to the summer. Suffice to say that it would not be worth ruining this experience of a life time (not to mention the financial investment your parents are making) by making this kind of mistake.

Food other than the group treat! We can debate a prescribed candy allotment but its totally unfair for the group to carry personal food and we can not have food in any of the personal bags. Anything smelly that might attract grizzly's (eg. perfumed deodorant!)

Cotton stuff! It's useless when you need it and we don't have space for it. If you are on a bit of a budget try shopping for wooly clothing at Value Village.