

## Example Gear List & Packing Guide

When SAWS rangers, specialists, and field crews head out to the field, they must consider the project needs of the day before packing their packs. Below is one example of a SAWS wilderness ranger's packing gear list for both day and overnight pack, highlighting important safety needs to enjoy the outdoors.

### Day Hiking Gear List & Reference Photos





1. *Food* for the day.
2. *Water*: Consider distances to water sources throughout the workday.
3. *Poop Kit* includes one roll of toilet paper, hand sanitizer (travel size), towel for drying wet feet, and an emergency change of socks and underwear.
4. *Rain Kit* includes poncho inside a sandwich bag or packable-rain jacket.
5. *Med Kit* includes one *\*stocked\** medical kit that you are familiar with. One that contains supplies tailored to the type of work you are doing and the environment you are working in. Example supplies for a med kit can be found [here](#).
6. *Water Filtration Kit*: Be familiar with your water filter kit (i.e., Aquamira, Sawyer Water Filters, Katadyn Pump), as in how often to clean and troubleshooting any potential issues while in the field.
7. *In case of emergency kit* includes one *Power Bank* - a rechargeable, portable battery with USB port for charging devices.
8. *In case of emergency kit (continued)* include one SPOT Device. This device allows for one-way communication to a list of contacts. Communication includes user's current GPS coordinates and the ability to send an "all is well" or SOS message among other features.
9. *In case of emergency kit (continued)* include batteries for SPOT Device (4 AAA batteries).
10. *In case of emergency kit (continued)* includes one InReach Device. This is a rechargeable, two-way communication device that allows for user to send current GPS coordinates along with a short message/email/SMS along with several other features.
11. *River Crossing Shoes*: When crossing rivers or streams during workday, consider bringing a change of shoes.
12. *Tools* needed for workday. Pictured here is a folding hand saw.
13. *Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)* includes one pair of work gloves. Depending on the tool/work being performed all necessary safety gear can vary; think hard hat, safety glasses, ear plugs, and masks.
14. *Clothing layers* includes warm, insulated layers and cool, breathable layers to adjust to wind/temperature as needed.
15. *\*The\* Pack*: This is where everything goes and *\*should\** feel comfortable when on.

*\*Gear is listed in no particular order.*

## Backpacking Gear List & Reference Photos



A. *Cooking Kit* includes one cook set, propane cannister with enough fuel for trip + camp stove top.

B. *Tent-Time Kit* includes one headlamp with extra batteries, one alarm clock, one book.

C. *Sleeping Bag*: double check the forecast before trip to make sure you are bringing an appropriate sleeping bag for evening temps.

D. *\*The\* Pack*: This is where everything goes and *\*should\** feel comfortable when on.

E. *Tent*: make sure you are familiar with your tent before your trip, double check you have all the parts: all poles, rainfly, stakes, tarp/footprint oh, and the tent of course.

F. *Water Filtration Kit*: Be familiar with your water filter kit (i.e., Aquamira, Sawyer Water Filters, Katadyn Pump), as in how often to clean and troubleshooting any potential issues while in the field.

G. *Rain Kit* includes one poncho in a sturdy zip lock baggy and one rain jacket.

H. *Poop Kit* include one roll of toilet paper in a sturdy zip lock baggy, one trowel, one travel sized bottle of hand sanitizer, one backup pair of socks and underwear all in a larger freezer zip lock bag.

I. *Water Shoes*: Crossing rivers during your backpacking trip? A change of shoes for river fords will keep your toes safe from stubbing on slippery river rocks.

J. *Bear Cannister + Kitchen Utensils*: Backpacking in bear country or just want to keep critters from getting to your smelly items? Pack your food in a bear cannister. All food for the trip should fit in here and stored 200 feet away from camp (i.e., your tent/cooking area). Food and smelly items can also be hung in bear-bags at least 200 feet from camp. Smelly items include food, food trash as well as many toiletries. Be sure to be familiar with bear-hangs and practice before heading out into the field. Additional kitchen utensils: I enjoy drinking warm beverages with breakfast, so I bring a dedicated mug for tea/coffee.

K. *Work Tools* include tools you are bringing for work while on your backpacking trip.

L. *Camp Shoes*: Never underestimate the power of having comfortable shoes to change into at camp after a long day in hiking/work boots.

M. *In Case of Emergency Kit* includes one \*stocked\* medical kit that you are familiar with supplies that are tailored to the type of work you are doing and the environment you are camping in. Bring a fully charged communication device that you are familiar with using plus extra batteries, power bank for charging devices, map of the area you are camping in. Example supplies for a med kit [here](#).

N. *Bear Hang Kit* includes one dry bag, carabiner, and 50-foot-long rope for hanging food and any trash you produce or collect while backpacking. Be sure you are comfortable with hanging your own bear hang with your gear before the trip.

O. *Bed Kit* includes anything that helps you sleep well at night: I bring not one but two sleeping pads, a small travel pillow, and an extra sleeping bag liner if forecasted evening temperatures are low.

P. *Clothes* includes one set of comfortable sleep/camp clothes to change into after work as well as daily changes of socks, underwear, and undershirts. Depending on the forecast and the work I will be doing, I try to wear the same work pants and button-up for the entirety of my trip. Also depending on the forecast, I will bring a puffy or fleece jacket for chilly nights/mornings.

Q. *Water*: The ability to carry at least two liters of water. Consider the distance you will be from water sources when deciding on the size and number of containers.

### Backpacking Packing Instructions:



When it is time to pack up all the gear, check out [this article from REI](#) :

“Packing can be broken down into three zones plus peripheral storage:

- Bottom zone: Good for bulky gear and items not needed until camp.
- Core zone: Good for your denser, heavier items.
- Top zone: Good for bulkier essentials you might need on the trail.
- Accessory pockets: Good for essentials you’ll need urgently or often.
- Tool loops and lash-on points: Good for oversized or overly long items.”

I personally pack my “bed kit” and clothes in the bottom zone, then the core zone is reserved for the heavier bear cannister, tent, and cooking kit. Top zone usually ends up being where my “tent time kit” and camp shoes get squeezed in. I distribute my water bottles, rain gear, poop kit and “in case of emergency kit” throughout my accessory pockets. Depending on size, work tools are either held in hand or in easy to access outside pockets. Bear hang bag and water shoes are hanging on carabiners on the outside of pack. Lastly, sleeping pads are strapped to the bottom of pack.