

NORTHERN TIER EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

The following checklist is for you and your crew to help you ensure that you have everything you need for an enjoyable and successful Northern Tier Trek. Most items may be purchased through the Northern Tier Trading Post Store at www.northerntiertradingpost.org.

PERSONAL GEAR

Clothing

The following is an inclusive list of all clothes. All trail clothing should be non-cotton and made of synthetics and/or natural non-cotton fibers.

- [1 pair Boots \(REQUIRED\)](#)
 - All participants are required to wear boots that have full ankle coverage, a rugged stitched or vulcanized sole and drainage at the instep. If you are unsure if the boots you are planning to bring meet this requirement please feel free to contact us prior to your arrival. Crews arriving with inadequate footwear will be asked to purchase boots in the trading post prior to departure on water. The health and safety of our participants is of utmost importance to us, for this reason **there are no exceptions to the boot requirement.**
- 1 pair Shoes (REQUIRED)
 - All participants are required to bring closed-toe/closed-heel camp shoes with hard soles, such as lightweight sneakers.
 - **THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT PERMITTED:** Sandals, Water Slippers, some Vibram Five Fingers® models, Crocs™ and some KEEN styles.
- 1 Rain Jacket w/Hood (REQUIRED)
 - All participants are required to pack a quality rain jacket with a hood. Ensure that your rain gear is waterproof, not just water resistant. Ponchos are not acceptable and are very dangerous in the event of a capsized canoe.
- [2 Long-sleeve lightweight shirts](#)
- [2 pair Pants with zip-off legs](#)
- [3 pair Socks \(wool or wool/synthetic blend\)](#)
- 2 pair Underwear
- [1 Broad Brimmed Hat or Baseball Cap](#)
- [1 Lightweight fleece jacket or vest](#)
- [1 Knit hat](#)
- 1 set of Clean, Dry clothes (including shoes) for travel to and from Northern Tier
- 1 Bathing Suit (for use in the sauna)
- Flips-flops for shower
- BSA Field Uniform or Unit Activity Uniform

Other Personal Gear

- [1 Sleeping Bag](#)
 - All participants should bring a sleeping bag that is **compact, synthetic, lightweight and rated to 35°F** with a compression style stuff sack.
- [1 25-30 liter water proof stuff sack or dry bag for clothing and other gear](#)
- [1 Sleeping Pad – closed cell or self-inflating foam](#)
- 1 to 2 [Bandannas](#), Buffs or small synthetic camp towel
- [1 Belt or 1 pair of Suspenders](#)
- 1 Toothbrush
- [1 Bowl, plastic or metal – 12oz](#)
- [1 Cup, plastic or metal – 8 to 12oz](#)
- [1 Spoon/Spork, plastic or metal](#)
- [1 Water bottle, 1 liter, wide-mouthed with Carabiner style clip.](#)
- [1 small Headlamp](#)
- 1 Whistle
- 1 stick of Lip Balm with SPF 15 or greater
- 1 Pair of Sunglasses with keeper strap
- 2 Pair personal prescription glasses as needed, with keeper strap
- Personal medications as needed (2 supplies to carry in 2 locations)
- Personal Toiletries
- 1 Bathing Towel

Optional Personal Gear

- 1 Camera with extra batteries and waterproof box (e.g., OtterBox® or Pelican Case™)
- 1 Head net for mosquitoes
- 1 pair Long Underwear
- 1 pair rain pants (can double as one pair of pants)
- 1 Book for reading
- 1 Personal Journal and Pen/Pencil

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CREW GEAR

Required

- 1 small Pocket Knife per canoe
- 1 small Compass per canoe
- 1 Map Case per canoe
- 1 set of Maps per canoe
 - Please do not purchase maps prior to your arrival. Your crew will plan your route, with the help of your Interpreter, after your arrival to Northern Tier. Maps may then be purchased from the Trading Post and will cost between \$50 and \$90 per crew.
- Sunscreen (1-2 bottles per crew) SPF 15 or greater
- Bug Repellent (1-2 bottles per crew) *NO aerosol cans.*
- Toothpaste (1 small tube per crew)
- Medicated Foot Powder (1 bottle per crew)
- Crew First Aid Kit
 - Adhesive bandages (assorted sizes)
 - Knuckle and fingertip bandages
 - Steri strips
 - Moleskin/molefoam
 - Second skin
 - Gauze pads – 3" x 3"
 - Adhesive tape – 1" x 15'
 - 1" or 2" roll of gauze
 - 4" elastic bandage
 - Oval eye patch
 - Antibiotic ointment
 - Disposable alcohol wipes
 - Triangular bandage
 - Acetaminophen
 - Ibuprofen tablets
 - Antacids
 - Antihistamine - tablets and liquid form
 - Steroid cream
 - Anaphylaxis-Kit (if needed)
 - Throat lozenges
 - Cold caplets
 - Small bar soap
 - Lip balm
 - Thermometer
 - Scissors
 - Tweezers
 - Safety pins
 - Side cutters
 - Nitrile or Latex gloves
 - Barrier Device for Resuscitation
 - Sunscreen
 - First Aid Manual

Optional

- 1 small Repair Kit (multi-tool, duct tape, small sewing kit)
- 1 pair Binoculars
- 1 Fillet Knife
- 2-Piece or Collapsible Fishing Poles and Tackle – 2 to 4 per crew. Minimal equipment is available to check out at the Ely Base.
- 1 Lightweight Fish Stringer
- A compact, compressible string bag may be brought by the crew to carry items on a side hike.
 - **Daypacks or Fanny Packs** are unnecessary in Canoe Country. Items that need to be gotten to quickly in case of weather, photogenic moments or other reasons, should be kept near the top of the portage pack.

WHAT NOT TO BRING ON YOUR TREK

- ⊗ **Cell Phones.** Northern Tier provides all necessary Emergency Communications devices and manages all emergencies in conjunction with local authorities. All crews will be asked to lock cell phones up with their valuables prior to departure on water. There is very limited cell phone service in the wilderness and cell phones are not permitted on the trail.
- ⊗ **SPOT Satellite Messengers or any other Emergency Beacon Devices.** Northern Tier provides all necessary Emergency Communications devices and manages all emergencies in conjunction with local authorities. All crews will be asked to lock any such devices up with their valuables prior to departure on water. These devices are not permitted on the trail.
- ⊗ **Canoe chairs that clip or strap into canoes.** These damage factory canoe seats and make portaging difficult. Standard Crazy Creek style camp chairs may be brought for use in camp sites and can double as a sleeping pad.
- ⊗ **Electronic Music, Game or Video Devices.** The beautiful wilderness of Northern Minnesota, Southern Ontario and Manitoba are the reason you're at Northern Tier, right? Enjoy it!

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GEAR PROVIDED BY NORTHERN TIER

- Portage Packs w/Liner Bags (1 for every 3 people)
- Food Box(es) and Pack(s) w/Liner Bag(s)
- 1 Crew Equipment Box and Pack
- Tents (2-, 4- and 5-man as needed)
- 1 Dining Fly w/Ridge Line and Stakes
- Parachute Cord
- 1 Shovel
- 1 Folding Saw
- 2 Bear Ropes and 1 Pulley/Ring
- 1 Fire Grate
- 1 5-gallon collapsible Water Bucket
- 2 Stoves, fuel bottles, fuel funnel and fuel
- 1 Paddle/person
- 1 Life Jacket/person
- 1 Seat Cushion for middle passenger/canoe
- 1 Emergency Radio or Satellite Phone w/waterproof box
- 1 Utensil Kit
 - 1 Slotted Spoon
 - 1 Regular Spoon
 - 1 Metal Spatula
 - 1 Nylon Spatula
 - 1 Spreader Knife
 - 1 Whisk
 - 1 Pair Hot Pot Pliers
- 1 Soap Kit
 - Dish Soap, Sanitizer Tablets and Scrubbies
 - Hand Sanitizer
 - Stove Oil
 - Strike Anywhere Matches
 - 1 Polar Pure bottle/canoe
- Cooking Equipment
 - Cooking Pots (8, 6, 4, 3 and 1 quart sizes, percolator, griddle available)
 - 1 Bakepacker and Baking Liner Pans
 - 1 Measuring Cup
 - 1 Cutting Board
- Canoes (one canoe per three people). Lightweight canoes are available in Ely and Atikokan by reservation (extra fees apply).
- Full Trail Food Outfitting - 3 balanced meals per day and:
 - Spice Kit with a wide variety of spices and seasonings available.
 - Condiments
 - Variety of hot and cold drink mixes
 - Supplemental Baking/Cooking Items (Bannock, Fish Fry, Sugar, Popcorn)
- Fishing Equipment (Ely only, available on a first-come first served basis.
 - Fishing treks in Atikokan are fully outfitted with the necessary fishing equipment).
- GPS Units (available on a first-come first served basis).