

Joshua Tree Gear & Packing Lecture

- **It's a car camp.** You won't need to move your gear more than 100 yards. So backpacks aren't needed, soft sided duffels are the way to go.
 - o Any tent with a full rain fly is acceptable. Yes it rains and even snows in JT. This is a very good time to check out the tent you intend to take to snow camp, and also your tent partner. While a 4-season tent is certainly not required if you already have the tent you're taking to snow camp this is a good opportunity to set it up and get familiar with it. And speaking of which:
 - Nearly every year someone shows up at JT without key components such as the poles or stakes. Please set up your tent before Joshua Tree, so you know you have everything needed and also how it goes together. You'll have very little time once you arrive to set it up, that's not the time to learn how.
 - It can get really windy at Joshua Tree. It's not a bad idea to have some cord or twine so you can guy your tent out to an adjacent tree, bush, etc. You wouldn't want to look up and realize that pretty box kite is your tent.
 - A ground cloth is a good idea, it's a sandy rocky desert and you don't have to backpack the weight it
 - Note: there are field mice who will chew through your tent if you leave food inside, so don't
- **Sleeping bag:** we recommend nothing colder than a 20 degree mummy bag; it's high desert in the winter, it can get cold. It's also a good time to check out your expected snow camp bag, a zero will not be too warm (they have zippers)
- **A sleeping pad:** yes you need one, the ground is cold. Anything from a closed cell foam pad to a self-inflating Thermarest-style mattress are good
- **Day pack,** ready to go. We unload the bus, set up tents, and leave camp ready to hike in 30-minutes after arrival. So have your day pack ready to go with lunch and water and under the bus
- **Clothes:** be dressed in your hiking clothes on the bus, you won't have time to change when you arrive. Bring whatever additional hiking clothes you need for two days plus whatever clothes you want to wear around our potluck and campfire Saturday night.
 - o Camp clothes can be cotton or whatever you want. Bring warm jackets and beanies it gets cold at night. I usually wear thermal underwear once the sun goes down (about when we get back from the hike)
 - o Note: Fires spark. We would NOT recommend wearing your expensive hiking clothes and jackets around the campfire. Wear clothes you won't freak out about if you wake up with burn holes. There's nothing as sad as seeing burn holes in your brand new \$400 parka
- **Footwear:** Hiking boots and socks on the bus with you. Once the bus passes the town of Joshua Tree put them on. Step off the bus dressed and ready to hike. Around camp you can wear whatever you want. Uggs work great and are warm, tennis shoes, whatever . . . but closed toed.
- **Food:**
 - o You will need two trail lunches plus snacks, the first days-worth should already be in your day pack. Saturday night will be a potluck happy hour dinner which will be discussed next. The leaders will provide breakfast burritos for everyone Sunday morning, but no special orders. Whatever else you want for breakfast including coffee and drinks is up to you. And don't forget your leaders.
 - o You can bring a cooler. But understand that there is NOT enough room for 50 coolers under the bus (two groups per bus). So you will definitely have to share cooler space. No one brings a solo cooler.
 - o Do not forget whatever adult beverage you prefer with dinner, and for around the campfire. This is a quality of life issue . . . And don't forget your leaders.
- **Drinks:**
 - o You should have ~3 quarts of water already in your day pack. You will need an additional ~2 gallons of water per person, there is no water at Joshua Tree. Please bring your water in sealed and unopened containers otherwise it may leak all over everyone's gear under the bus, and then they will be sad. Beverages for breakfast, dinner and happy hour are your call.

- **Stoves:** This is a car camp, while it's a good place to check out the backpacking stove you intend to carry to Snow Camp most of us will be cooking on Coleman style 2-burner camp stoves. So, raise your hand if you have a 2-burner Coleman style camp stove that you can bring to Joshua Tree? 8 or 9 is a good number.
 - o Bring whatever cooking pans and utensils, and also whatever serving utensils you need
 - o Bring whatever eating and drinking plates, cups and utensils you need.
 - o And don't forget fuel for the stove
- **Firewood: YES !!!!!** There's really no such thing as too much, at least one bundle of firewood from each tent pair. More is better. 12-15 bundles is a good number, it's easy to dispose of any "extra".
- **Other incidentals:**
 - o **Toiletries:** Our campsite will have two pit toilets (no running water). They'll likely have TP, but do you really want to get there to find out they don't? And of course you should carry a toiletry kit in the field
 - o **Navigation:** Of course you will need your compass and JT map folded and in a 1 gallon bag both days. But you will also need a clipboard (the normal brown one is are \$0.99 at Staples) the second day. You also need a fine pencil and some extra paper (for drawing your own topo map from a diorama we set up). And finally a 12" inch ruler is really useful to have. If you're buying one a clear plastic one is best. Metal clipboard and rulers are a bad idea as they can affect the compass. The clipboard, paper and ruler really isn't needed until Sunday.
 - o **Lanterns:** We don't need many. In fact our campfire should hopefully be visible from the space station. But 3 or 4 around camp isn't a bad thing while we're cooking. Who can bring a lantern raise your hand?
 - o **Camp chair** . . . because you're not sitting in mine. Let me stress this again, if you forget a camp chair you will be sitting on a bundle of wood . . . until we burn your seat. Trust me, you just don't want to be that sad!
 - o Trash bags, we probably need a half dozen or more. There's a dumpster at the site but it's a walk.
- **So, how to bring this?**
 - o **On the bus:** you dressed to hike, your boots and socks ready to put on. You can wear your camp shoes or whatever on the bus. Bring your student handbook, map key, homework, etc., on the bus; you do have a nav test damn early on Sunday. And you can bring whatever treats on the bus you want. Donuts and coffee are always favorites. Note: the bus that takes you to Joshua Tree on Saturday and the bus that picks you up Sunday may very well be different busses. So, you cannot leave anything on the bus, there's no guarantee you'll get it back.
 - o **Under the bus:**
 - Everything that goes under the bus should be marked with tape and a marker as "Group 3", otherwise you could be walking all over Joshua Tree trying to find your stuff, The three groups do NOT camp in the same site so if your gear, cooler or firewood gets off with the wrong group you have a problem
 - When you show up Saturday morning find your G3 leader Jon Hershman. He will check you in and tell you where to put your under-bus gear. We try very hard to keep the three group's gear separate under the bus even though they are marked. Of course if Group 1 and/or 2's coolers of beer and firewood end up at our camp that's not a disaster, mistakes do happen.
 - Your fully packed day pack, marked for "Group 3" goes under the bus
 - Ideally all your gear, clothes, food, etc., are in one large soft-sided duffel marked for "Group 3"
 - One shared cooler marked "Group 3"
 - A camp chair and firewood, you guessed it, marked for 'Group 3'.