

# Complete Camping Checklist

## **CRITICAL - Cannot Camp Without These**

### **Shelter & Sleep System**

- Tent (appropriate size for group)
- Sleeping bag (rated 10-15°F below expected temps)
- Sleeping pad or air mattress
- Rope/paracord (50+ feet)

### **Safety & Navigation**

- First aid kit
- Personal medications
- Headlamp (primary light source)
- Extra batteries
- Multi-tool or Swiss Army knife
- Emergency whistle

### **Cooking & Food Basics**

- Camp stove and fuel
- Lighter/waterproof matches (multiple)
- Cookware (pot, pan, etc.)
- Utensils (don't forget can opener!)
- Water bottles/hydration system
- Cooler with ice/ice packs (car camping)

### **Personal Care Essentials**

- Rain jacket and pants
- Extra socks and underwear
- Toilet paper and towel
- Sunscreen (SPF 30+)
- Insect repellent

## **Legal/Administrative**

- Cash for park fees
  - Permits/reservations
  - Driver's license and insurance
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## **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED - Makes Trip Much Better**

### **Enhanced Shelter**

- Footprint or tarp under tent
- Pillow or inflatable pillow
- Extra blanket
- Tent repair kit/duct tape

### **Clothing & Gear**

- Warm hat and sun hat
- Sturdy hiking boots/shoes
- Camp shoes (sandals or slip-ons)
- Sunglasses
- Personal toiletries
- Hand sanitizer
- Towel (quick-dry preferred)

### **Cooking Upgrades**

- Windscreen for stove
- Plates, bowls, cups
- Sharp knife
- Cutting board
- Food storage containers
- Trash bags and recycling bags
- Aluminum foil
- Paper towels/napkins
- Dish soap and sponge

### **Additional Safety/Light**

- Flashlight (backup)
  - Lantern for campsite
  - Map and compass
  - Emergency contact information
  - Water purification tablets or filter
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## **NICE TO HAVE - Comfort & Convenience**

### **Campfire & Tools**

- Firewood (check local regulations)
- Fire starters/kindling
- Hatchet or saw for wood
- Folding camp chairs
- Camp table (if not provided)
- Hammer (for tent stakes)
- Bungee cords
- Carabiners
- Fire extinguisher or water for fire safety

### **Electronics & Entertainment**

- Phone and charger/power bank
- Camera
- Two-way radios (for groups)
- Books/e-reader
- Playing cards or games
- Binoculars
- Fishing gear (if applicable)

### **Miscellaneous Helpful Items**

- Clothesline and clips
- Wet wipes
- Zip-lock bags (various sizes)
- Backpack or day pack
- Work gloves

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## **LUXURY ITEMS - For Maximum Comfort**

### **Optional Comfort Items**

- Portable camp shower
- Camp mirror
- Folding table
- Camping cot
- Portable camp toilet
- Solar lights
- Hammock
- Portable speaker (respect quiet hours)
- Camp kitchen organizer
- Camping rug/mat

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## **BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME**

### **Pre-Trip Checklist**

- Check weather forecast
- Inform someone of your plans
- Charge all electronic devices
- Check camping area rules and regulations
- Confirm reservations
- Check gear for damage/wear
- Plan meals and portion food