

**HARVARD FIRST-YEAR OUTDOOR PROGRAM  
2018 FOP EQUIPMENT LIST – CABIN-BASED TRIPS**

**WILL I REALLY NEED ALL THIS STUFF?**

You **MUST** bring all of the **REQUIRED** items on the following page in order to be adequately prepared for a fun and safe FOP experience. In addition to the required gear, we list optional items. If you already own these, feel free to bring them. However, it is not necessary to go out and buy them. If you show up without required items or with inadequate equipment, you will have to purchase these items in Boston. **You will be asked to leave any extra items not listed in Cambridge** (including deodorant, jeans, extra underwear, and cell phones).

**BUT THIS IS A REALLY LONG LIST!**

We do require many items, and the list can be daunting at first. We would emphasize a few things:

- Much “athletic” clothing will work fine. Many people find the clothing they use for running or working out will work fine for FOP. The most important thing is that you avoid cotton and down.
- We loan equipment to over 80% of FOPpers – so we can help! If you let us know you need something, we will do our best to help.
- If you are going to purchase clothing, often stores like Walmart, Target, and Old Navy have perfectly functional options that are much cheaper than “outdoor gear” stores.

**HIKING BOOTS**

Your feet are your wheels. If they aren’t comfortable and well protected, you won’t be either. You need boots that are comfortable and tough! **Your boots must cover your ankles** to provide adequate ankle support. Hiking shoes such as the low or mid-top shoes made by Nike, Adidas, etc. are unacceptable. Some good boots are made by One Sport, Vasque, Merrell, Scarpa, Asolo, Hi-Tec, Oboz, and so on.

Many of us swear by the traditional heavy leather hiking boots which give the best ankle support and foot-protection from rough terrain and the elements. Others prefer lightweight hiking boots, made of a combination of nylon and leather. They break in much more easily than leather boots and are often cheaper. While adequate for the backpacking we do, they provide less ankle support than sturdy leather boots and tend to be less waterproof.

Make sure that you try on your boots with beefy socks, and that you still have adequate toe room. Also, **waterproof them well**, even if they have a waterproof-breathable membrane like Gore-tex. Nikwax and Sno-Seal are examples of good waterproofing treatments.

**Whatever boots you choose, you must break them in!** Otherwise, your feet will hurt. A lot. Laziness in breaking in boots can potentially ruin your FOP experience. We would like to encourage you to purchase your own set of boots and to break them in over the course of the summer. Purchasing your own boots and wearing them in the frontcountry helps the boots mold to your foot, which ultimately prevents blisters and discomfort in the backcountry. Also, the boots that work for FOP trips are great for wearing around Harvard on rainy and snowy days, so you may be making a purchase that you will use for the next four years! That being said, we know that not everyone needs a pair of hiking boots for their time at Harvard. Our program has a significant supply of excellent hiking boots to offer to our participants,

**FABRICS**

Wool and synthetic fabrics which have a variety of names. Baselayers are often made from nylon, acrylic, or polyester. Insulation is often called “fleece”. There are also synthetic “puffy” jackets that would also work as insulation. Check tags on these fabrics; some fleece-like items can be cotton blends. When cotton gets wet, it loses its ability to trap heat and becomes useless as an insulating layer. Cotton is only acceptable in your t-shirt(s), though many prefer synthetic (“wicking”) t-shirts. Fabrics like fleece, rayon, acrylic, polyester, polypropylene, and wool retain their insulating ability when wet. There is **no need to buy expensive fleece sweaters/jackets**. Just be sure that whatever you bring is **100% synthetic or wool**.

Socks, like your other layers, must be made out of 100% wool or synthetics. Cotton blends will leave you cold and unhappy. If you don’t know exactly what your socks are made of, please buy wool socks.

**RAINGEAR**

It needs to keep water out, so it must be **waterproof**, not water-resistant. Adequate rain gear ranges from less expensive coated nylon (as long as the coating is fresh) jackets and pants to such fabrics as Gore-Tex, Hyvent, and SystemIII. These jackets **must have**

**hoods** to keep your head dry. For rain bottoms, full-length side zips are a nice feature but not required.

Unacceptable raingear includes warm-up jackets, wind-breakers, plain nylon or supplex jackets, or ponchos.

Raingear doesn't need to be expensive, but it needs to be waterproof or you will be unsafe in the field. If you are uncertain about clothing you own, a good test is to wear your raingear in the shower. If you have any questions about raingear you are buying just give us a call and ask.

**BUT WHERE DO I GET IT ALL?**

FOP does not have to be unduly expensive. Flashy, name-brand gear is nice, but it is costly and not necessary. Mt. Everest was climbed before fleece and Gore-Tex were invented, so they are not necessary for FOP! Cheap alternatives include: borrowing from your buddies, using wool instead of fleece, and shopping at thrift stores. Again, please contact Summer Staff for ideas on how to get all the necessary gear on a budget.

**Mail order and retail stores:**

Recreational Equipment, Inc (REI) – rei.com  
Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS) – ems.com  
Backcountry.com  
GearX.com  
Walmart.com

Moosejaw.com  
CampSaver.com  
SierraTradingPost.com  
Campmor.com  
Target.com

**FOP Gear Rental**

In recent years, parents, leaders, and friends have donated funds and gear to FOP. Through their generosity, we are able to provide loaner gear to FOP participants. We charge a small rental fee to cover cleaning, repair, and replacement. Below is the gear we have to offer, on an as-needed basis.

Below is a list of available gear and prices for gear rental:

Sleeping Bag:	\$10 Rental Fee	Boots:	\$10 Rental Fee
Backpack:	\$15 Rental Fee	Fleece Jackets:	\$5 Rental Fee
Rain Jacket:	\$10 Rental Fee	Long Underwear Tops:	\$5 Rental Fee
Rain pants:	\$10 Rental Fee	Long Underwear Bottoms:	\$5 Rental Fee
Sleeping Pad:	\$5 Rental Fee		

FOP unfortunately has a limited supply of gear. Though we work hard to provide gear for all those who need it and typically meet that demand, we may run out of certain items. We therefore cannot guarantee the availability of rental items. Please contact us as soon as possible if you are interested in renting gear from FOP – we want to work with you to meet all your gear needs. We were able to supply some form of gear to 80% of our participants last fall! If there are items not on this list that you need to rent, please contact us and we will work with you to get you prepared.

On the next page, you will find a list of the clothing and equipment you will need for your trip. In each section, we have listed the **REQUIRED** gear first. We also list optional items. If you already own these, feel free to bring them. However, it is not necessary to go out and buy these items. If you are placed on a switch trip or a Service Trip (we'll notify you by July 31<sup>st</sup>), bring all of the items required on the list **PLUS** the required items for those specific trips, listed in a separate section at the end.

If you have **ANY** questions, no matter how complicated or simple, do not hesitate to call, email, or send us questions in cookie-form. Our website (www.harvardfop.com) is also a wonderful resource, complete with pictures, detailed explanations of gear, and how to shop effectively and find bargains.

**2018 FOP TRIP EQUIPMENT LIST – Cabin-Based Trips**

**Footwear**

*Required (you can borrow boots from FOP):*

- 2-3 pairs of noncotton socks
- 1 pair of sturdy, comfortable shoes. Hiking boots would be good; sturdy shoes or sneakers would also be ok.

**UPPER BODY**

*Required (you can borrow long underwear, raincoats, and some fleece and wool items from FOP):*

You must have a **minimum** of 3 long-sleeve layers that can all be worn at the same time!

- 1-2 t-shirts-- cotton is OK, but some people prefer cool-max or other synthetic
- 1 mid-weight long underwear tops (**NO COTTON BLENDS!**)
- 1-2 wool, fleece, or synthetic sweaters or shirts
- 1 heavy wool, fleece, or synthetic jacket
- 1 WATERPROOF raincoat (see pg. 1). Must be large enough to fit over all of your other layers.  
**Ponchos are not acceptable!**
- 1 thick wool or fleece hat that must cover your ears (i.e. not a baseball hat)
- 2 non-cotton sports bras, if applicable

*Optional:*

- 1 pair of wool, synthetic, or fleece mittens or gloves (thick ski gloves are okay but not ideal)
- 1 pair of thin polypropylene or silk liner gloves
- 1 wool or fleece neck gaiter (scarves are OK too)
- 1 wool, synthetic, or fleece vest (this is in addition to the above required items)
- 1 pair of waterproof mitten shells

**LOWER BODY**

*Required (you can borrow long underwear, rain pants, and fleece from FOP):*

- 1 pair of mid-weight long underwear bottoms (**NO COTTON!!!**)
- 1 pair of comfortable, quick-drying shorts
- 1 pair of rain pants -- (see section on page 1)
- 2-3 pairs of non-cotton underwear. Synthetic or silk both work.

*Optional:*

- 1 pair of fleece or wool long pants

**EQUIPMENT**

*Required:*

- Small backpack
- 2 one-liter unbreakable water bottles
- Headlamp or flashlight with spare new batteries. If at all possible, please borrow/buy a headlamp.
- Bug repellent (Citronella or DEET, for instance. Do not bring products with higher than 33% DEET.)
- Toiletries
- Sunscreen & Chapstick with SPF protection
- Any required medications

*Optional:*

- 2-3 Bandanas (many uses)
- Camera
- Small journal/notepad
- Sunglasses and/or hat with a brim