

HARVARD FIRST-YEAR OUTDOOR PROGRAM
2022 FOP EQUIPMENT LIST — SITE-BASED SERVICE 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, and Asolo.

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 Gore-Tex. Nikwax, Biwell 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, such as fleece, polar-fleece, Synchilla, Primaloft, Thermaloft, Capilene, or Bergelene will keep you warm even when wet. 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**. Cheaper and acceptable fleece or wool options can be found at stores such as Target, Old Navy, clearance racks at outdoors stores, or second-hand/thrift stores. 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.

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 Synchilla 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:

***Recreation Equipment
Inc. (REI)***

www.rei.com

www.rei-outlet.com

***Joe Jones Wilderness
House:***

www.joejonessports.com

Northern Mountain Supply

www.killerdeals.com

L.L. Bean

www.llbean.com

Sierra Trading Post:

www.sierratradingpost.com

Campmor

www.campmor.com

***Eastern Mountain
Sports (EMS):***

www.ems.com

Backcountry.com

www.backcountry.com

www.backcountryoutlet.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. Below is the gear we have to offer, on an as-needed basis:

Sleeping Bag

Backpack

Rain Jacket

Rain pants

Sleeping Pad

Boots*

Fleece Jackets

Long Underwear Tops

Long Underwear Bottoms

** We encourage you to buy your own boots and to break them in over the summer. Information about boots is on our website (<https://fop.fas.harvard.edu/> "FOPpers" tab Equipment) and on our Equipment List. Buying your own boots and wearing them at home helps the boots mold to your foot, which prevents blisters and discomfort in the backcountry. FOP boots are great for wearing around Harvard in rain and snow, so you may use your boots for the next four years! That being said, we know that not everyone needs a pair of hiking boots at Harvard. FOP has a supply of excellent boots, and if you would like a pair, you may rent them from us.*

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 76% 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.

Unacceptable raingear includes warm-up jackets, wind-breakers plain nylon or supplex jackets, or ponchos. Any jackets or pants that have a non-polyester lining are also unacceptable.

Raingear doesn't need to be expensive, but it needs to be waterproof or you will be unsafe in the field. 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.

On this 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.

Footwear

Required (you can borrow boots from FOP):

- ☐ 3-4 pairs of noncotton socks (the beefier the better, but must fit boots well)
- ☐ 1 pair of sturdy leather or part leather hiking boots—waterproofed (see boot section above)
- ☐ 1 pair of light, comfortable shoes for camp (tennis or running shoes or Crocs **WITHOUT HOLES** are great; **river shoes, TEVA's, and other sandals are absolutely NOT allowed.**)

UPPER BODY

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

You must have a **minimum** of 4 long-sleeve layers that can all be worn at the same time!

- ☐ 1-2 t-shirts, cotton is OK, but some people prefer dri-fit or other synthetic
- ☐ 1-2 mid-weight polypropylene long underwear tops (**NO COTTON BLENDS!**)
- ☐ 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 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 wool, synthetic, or fleece mittens or gloves (thick ski gloves are okay but not ideal)

LOWER BODY

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

- ☐ 1 pair of mid-weight long underwear bottoms (**Running tights/yoga pants work well, but NO COTTON!**)
- ☐ 1 pair of comfortable, quick-drying shorts
- ☐ 1 pair of fleece or wool long pants
- ☐ 1 pair of rain pants (see section on page 1)
- ☐ 2 pairs of non-cotton underwear.

Optional:

- ☐ Quick-drying or Nylon hiking pants (if on service trip, recommended for leg protection while doing trail work)

EQUIPMENT

Required (you can borrow pack, sleeping bags, and sleeping pads from FOP):

- ☐ Backpack or duffel bag of at least 50L capacity (**NEED 2 lash straps or bungee cords bringing an external frame pack**)
- ☐ Sleeping bag (Only synthetic-filled bags. **NO DOWN** and **NO COTTON**. Rated to 20° F.)
- ☐ Sleeping Pad (If purchasing a pad, Ensolite and Ridge Rest pads are lighter and as comfortable as much more expensive Therm-A-Rest pads)
- ☐ Cup/bowl, and spoon (Tupperware, or big, insulated coffee mugs are all good to chow from - you should be able to lick the bottom)
- ☐ 3 one-liter unbreakable plastic water bottles - hydration systems with hoses are OK.
- ☐ Headlamp or flashlight with spare new batteries & spare bulb.
- ☐ Bug repellent (Citronella or DEET, for instance. Do not bring products with higher than 30% DEET.)
- ☐ Toothbrush and toothpaste
- ☐ Sunscreen & Chapstick with SPF protection
- ☐ **Menstruators:** Backcountry Period Kit (see pg. 4)
- ☐ Glasses, contacts, & contact solution, if applicable.
- ☐ Any required medications

Optional:

- ☐ Small daypack (recommended)
- ☐ 2-3 Bandanas (many uses)
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Small journal/notepad
- ☐ Stuff sacks
- ☐ Crazy Creek or similar chair (if you have one)
- ☐ Trekking poles (if you have them/need them)
- ☐ Sunglasses and/or hat with a brim
- ☐ Bug head net to cover your face

MENSTRUAL CARE

Dealing with your period in the woods may sound like a bummer, but it doesn't have to be. Even if you are not expecting to get your period during the trip, bring adequate supplies anyway. The change in diet and the strenuous exercise can all affect your cycle. This is even true if you are on the pill. Your leaders will carry some extra supplies, but it's necessary to come equipped.

You should bring a generous supply of tampons, pads, or a menstrual cup. Tampons are much easier to deal with than pads in terms of waste and size (especially tampons without an applicator), but if you are more comfortable with pads then that is great! A menstrual cup (ie. DivaCup) is also nice to reduce waste and pack weight, but only use this option if you already own/are comfortable and familiar with using one.

No matter what you use, we also suggest bringing a travel pack of baby wipes for cleaning purposes.

BLACKOUT BAGS

Before your trips begins, we will provide "blackout bags" for anyone who wants them. They will include a dark ziplock (double bagged) with baby powder and a handkerchief to use as a pee rag. Since we carry limited toilet paper on FOP, many FOPpers and leaders choose to use a pee rag as opposed to "drip drying."

The opaque bags themselves are useful to dispose of any used period supplies or biowaste throughout the trip. If you have any questions about disposing of waste or menstruating on FOP, please do not hesitate to reach out.

EYE CARE

Wearing contact lenses on FOP may seem daunting, but it doesn't have to be. You will not have access to running water on FOP, but FOP does carry biodegradable soap. Do NOT use instant hand sanitizer to clean your hands prior to putting your contact in while on the trip. If you get the sanitizer in your eyes, it hurts! If you wear contact lenses, bring an extra pair of contacts AND your glasses as well as plenty of solution for cleaning your contact lenses.

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.