



SCOUTMASTERS SMOKE SIGNAL



Hi Everyone

Each Scout should have his own 3 person tent, sleeping bag, internal frame back pack, and self inflating sleeping pad and mess kit.

I will start with the tent 1st, on our campouts we pair the Scouts up with someone who is in their patrol or in their age bracket. There are usually two to three Scouts in a tent and the Scouts will take turns bringing their tents. When purchasing your tent you want one that has a good rain fly, as few poles as possible and it should be roughly 7 feet by 7 feet. The Troop discourages larger tents because they are a hassle for two Scouts to assemble and we usually have a limited amount of space to set up in. I wouldn't spend more than \$100.00 on a tent.

The Scouts sleeping bag is the one item that you don't want to skimp on, I would recommend a three season bag that has a temperature rating of 0 to 20 degrees, during the warmer months they can use it as a comforter and in the summer we usually end up sleeping on top of them. Make sure that you buy a bag that your Scout will be able to use for a couple of years and not a youth bag that he will grow right out of.

Next up is a back pack. When we arrive at campouts we usually only have to travel a short distance to our camp site and your Scout will need something to get his gear from the house to the campsite. An internal frame back pack is the best option for this. The Scout can pack all of his clothes and gear in the bag and lash his tent, sleeping pad and sleeping bag to the outside. The bags come in a wide range of styles and sizes so it is important to have you Scout fitted with a back pack and not just grab one off the shelves. Important information to keep in mind when shopping for the Back pack is that it will need to hold up to a week's worth of clothes (summer camp) and should be able to grow with your Scout so that he can get more than one or two years out of it.

Next up is a self inflating sleeping pad. On about 75% of our campouts we are sleeping in tents on the ground. A self inflating sleeping pad will provide some padding as well as insulation between your Scout and the ground. Make sure that you buy an adult sized self inflating sleeping pad.

The mess kit is need because we no longer use paper goods on our camp outs. The kit should consist of a plate, cup, bowl, fork knife and spoon. The Scout shop actually has a decent one for about \$10 or you can make your own.

A good source to purchase these items is Campmor on Rt 17 North in Paramus. They have an excellent selection of camping goods. The tents are actually set up so that you can see what you are buying and the sales people are very knowledgeable. When you enter the sleeping bag area they are all hanging up on clothes hangers and you can actually throw one on the floor and hop in it. They are used to dealing with Boy Scouts and will not try to sell you items that you will not use or are above the grade you will need.

Mr. Ramirez SM T-122