

Equipment List

Pacific Northwest Outdoor Educator: Mountaineering

Welcome to NOLS!

We look forward to having you with us this summer in the Pacific Northwest.

This equipment list is designed to assist you in deciding what to bring. Please read this document carefully. The actual gear needed for your particular course may vary slightly, given course route, curriculum goals, season and prevailing weather conditions, and instructor preference. Try to avoid bringing anything that is not on this list.

We can provide you with all of the equipment on this list, other than those items designated as “Must Bring.” We recommend that you only bring gear that you already own or that you can obtain inexpensively. On the first day you will meet with one of your instructors to review each item you bring from home. If your gear meets our standards, you can use it on your course. If not, you may store any excess gear at our headquarters.

While you do not have to rent or purchase gear from us, there are several reasons why we suggest it. Our rental gear is high quality and chosen specifically for the heavy use it receives on our courses. The rental prices are reasonable given the wear the equipment receives. Also, if you plan to eventually purchase gear you will have a better understanding of your needs and preferences after your NOLS expedition. Finally, students are often surprised at the amount of wear put on their personal gear in a month.

The availability of each item is indicated as follows:

Available at NOLS - Indicates that the item is available from NOLS, but for PURCHASE ONLY.

Must Bring - Indicates that the item is NOT AVAILABLE from NOLS.

Rental Only – The item is available to RENT from NOLS, and can be purchased at the end of your course (the rental price is applied to the purchase price).

The rental prices listed cover the entire course. Purchase prices listed are for new gear. ALL PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. The rental and purchase prices located in the gear checklist will allow you to estimate your charges; final charges will vary depending on the amount of equipment that you rent or purchase from us. You have been charged an equipment rental deposit in addition to tuition. This deposit will be applied to the charges you incur for equipment rental, cleaning, purchase, and any loss or damage to our gear. If your bill is less than the deposit fee, the difference will be refunded to you by mail.

If you have any questions, or if you would like more information regarding any of the items in the equipment list, please contact the NOLS Pacific Northwest outfitting staff at (360) 445-6657; E-mail: pnw_outfitting@nols.edu; or visit our web site at <http://www.nols.edu>. You can also write to us at NOLS PNW Outfitting, P.O. Box 527, Conway, WA 98238.



Upper Body Layers

NOLS uses a layering system where varied pieces of clothing are worn to achieve optimum body temperature control. The upper body layers listed are either synthetic garments which retain their insulating properties even when wet, or nylon or Gore-Tex® layers which help prevent heat loss by cutting wind, rain and snow. You will need 3 insulating layers, plus a wind and a rain layer. All must fit comfortably over each other so they can be worn at the same time. Your top insulating layers must be a fleece, made of Polartec® 300, or an insulated jacket with a zipper.

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
T-Shirt	Available at NOLS	\$27	1	We recommend Patagonia Capilene or other synthetic fabrics since they dry fast. This is not one of your insulating layers. No cotton.	
Base Layer (mid-weight synthetic)	Available at NOLS	\$23-\$52	1	Lightweight or mid-weight crew or zip turtleneck top of polyester, Capilene, or Polartec Power Dry.	
Mid-Layer (expedition weight)	Available at NOLS	\$48-\$68.50	1	Expedition-weight crew or zip turtleneck top of polyester fleece or Capilene.	
Top Insulating Layer (fleece or insulated jacket)	\$35	\$65-\$110	1	A heavy weight, full-length zip fleece jacket of Polartec® 200 or 300 or insulated jacket that is lightweight, such as the Mountain Hardwear Compressor or Patagonia Micro Puff jackets. An insulated jacket is preferred.	
Wind Shirt	\$20	\$55	1	A lightweight, breathable, nylon wind shell either anorak or full-zip style. This must be large enough to fit comfortably over the 3 insulating layers.	
Rain Jacket	Available at NOLS	\$60-\$150	1	A sturdy, roomy waterproof jacket with a hood. Must be large enough to fit over all the insulating layers. <u>Breathable fabric such as Gore-Tex and H2NO® are preferable and can work as both a wind and rain layer.</u>	

Lower Body Layers

You'll need underwear, two lower insulating layers plus a wind layer and a rain layer, which must fit comfortably over each other so they can all be worn at the same time.

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Women: Underwear/ Sports Bras Men: Boxers	Available at NOLS	\$18-\$36	2 pair	Women's briefs and sports bras and men's briefs or boxers in Capilene, polypro or silk are recommended. Women's briefs in cotton will work.	
Hiking Shorts	Available at NOLS	\$36-\$42	1 pair	Loose fitting nylon athletic or river shorts. No cotton.	
Base Layer (mid-weight synthetic)	Available at NOLS	\$22-\$38	1-2	Light or mid-weight bottoms of high performance polyester or wool.	
Mid-Layer (expedition weight fleece pants)	\$25	\$33-\$53	1	Expedition-weight bottoms of fleece (Polartec 200 weight or greater) or synthetic puffy pants.	



Lower Body Layers (Continued...)					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Wind Pants	\$25	\$55	1	Breathable nylon wind pants that are roomy enough to fit over all lower body garments. Zippered legs will help you slip your pants on over hiking boots. We recommend that you rent wind pants from us. NOLS has a custom design that includes zippered legs and reinforced patches at points of wear that holds up well to the rigors of a NOLS course.	
Rain Pants	Available at NOLS	\$60-\$125	1	Waterproof and breathable pants to fit over all your layers. <u>Again, zippered legs will help you slip your pants on over boots and crampons.</u>	

Head, Neck and Hand Layers					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Liner Gloves	Available at NOLS	\$10-\$18	1-2	Fleece, wool or polypro liner gloves for sun protection and hiking on cold, wet days.	
Mitten Shells w/Liner	\$16	\$72.50	1 pair	Waterproof shells to cover your mittens/gloves. We rent Outdoor Research Cornice Mitts with liners.	
Baseball Cap or Sun Hat	Available at NOLS	\$18.25	1	Necessary for sun protection of your face and ears.	
Wool or Fleece Hat	Available at NOLS	\$16-\$30	1	A warm hat made of wool or fleece.	

Climbing Gear					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Ice Axe	\$10	\$75-\$105	1	Ice axe (55 cm to 70 cm) suitable for travel on snow or ice. Personal ice axes need leashes.	
Crampons	\$10	\$150	1	Step-in crampons.	
Helmets	\$8	\$72.00	1	A lightweight, adjustable climbing helmet.	
Backcountry Climbing Harness	\$10	\$29.95	1	Lightweight, fully adjustable harness for backcountry use. Adjustable leg loops are recommended for expedition use so the harness can fit over multiple layers of clothing. We rent Black Diamond Alpine Bod harnesses.	
Rock Climbing Harness	\$15	\$89	1	Bring your own sport harness if you own one. We rent Petzl Calidris for our climbing camps.	

Climbing Gear (Continued...)					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Loose Fitting Cotton Pants	Must Bring	Must Bring	1-2 pairs	Bring loose fitting, long pants for rock climbing.	
Climbing Tops	Must Bring	Must Bring	1-2	Bring cotton t-shirts, tank tops, or comfortable shirt to rock climb in.	
Rock Climbing Shoes	\$16	\$70-\$100	1 pair	Look for shoes that will be comfortable on long days of climbing. Recommended brands are La Sportiva, Mammut, Scarpa, and 5.10.	
Climbing Pack	\$20	\$138.55	1	<u>Needed at climbing camp only.</u> Should be at least 3500 cubic inches capacity.	

Sleeping Gear					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Sleeping Bag	\$60	\$175-\$195	1	We recommend synthetic-insulated mummy bags approximately rated 0 to 10°F. Down bags are not suitable for the wet conditions sometimes encountered in the Northwest.	
Compression Stuff Sack	\$8	\$20-\$26	1	Large compression stuff sack for your sleeping bag.	
Sleeping Pad/Therm-A-Rest	\$10	\$17.75-\$90	1	A full-length closed cell foam pad to insulate and pad beneath your sleeping bag. Therm-A-Rest style full, or ¾, lengths are for sale only.	
Sleeping Pad Stuff Sack	\$5	\$13.50	1	Optional. A nylon storage bag, to protect your sleeping pad.	

Backpack and Storage Bags					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Backpack	\$80	\$344-\$455	1	We rent Lowe Alpine, Deuter, Dana Design and Osprey internal frame packs. If you decide to purchase an internal frame pack we recommend Deuter, Mystery Ranch G Series, Gregory Denali, Osprey or any other pack of similar quality and capacity. Internal frame packs must have a volume of 6000 - 7000 cubic inches (98 - 115 liters).	
Ditty Bags	\$2	\$5-\$11	2-3	Optional. Small nylon or net bags for organizing items in your pack.	
Plastic Trash Bags	Available at NOLS	\$1	2	Heavy-duty lawn and garden bags; a 2 mil/33 gallon bag for waterproofing your compression stuff sack and a 3 mil contractor cleanup bag for waterproofing your backpack.	

Miscellaneous Items

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Insulated Mug	Available at NOLS	\$4-\$14	1	12 oz. to 20 oz. insulated mugs with lids are preferred. Many staff use 16 oz. Nalgene water bottles for their mug.	
Bowl	Available at NOLS	\$3.50	1	A bowl with a snap-on lid. Re-sealable Tupperware type containers work great.	
Spoon	Available at NOLS	\$1	1	Lexan spoons are light, durable.	
Hydration System	Available at NOLS	\$8-\$31.75	2	Two water containers are required (64 oz. total.) One needs to be a water bottle. We recommend the other be a Platypus, Camelbak or MSR Hydromedary bag with 64 oz. capacity. Two water bottles are okay.	
Lip Balm	Available at NOLS	\$2.50	1-2	We recommend SPF 15 or greater.	
Sunscreen	Available at NOLS	\$14	1	4-ounce tube with SPF 30 or greater.	
Zinc Oxide	Available at NOLS	\$5	1	Optional. For total sun protection while on glacier.	
Glacier Glasses or Sunglasses	Available at NOLS	\$50-\$159	1 pair	Lenses should be dark and 100% UV resistant. You need a sturdy case. Glasses can be wrap around style or good quality sunglasses with side shields. If you have prescription lenses and have limited visibility without them, bring your own prescription sunglasses or look for a good quality polarized clip-on. Optic Nerve, Julbo, Smith, Oakley, and Bolle are good brands.	
Bandanas	Available at NOLS	\$2	1-2	Useful for a variety of purposes.	
Prescription Glasses and Contact Lenses	Must Bring	Must Bring	1 pair	Bring spare glasses or contact lenses. Contact lens wearers should consider bringing a pair of glasses as backup.	
Headlamp	Available at NOLS	\$32-\$39.95	1	LED headlamp preferable. Bring spare batteries. We sell Petzl and Black Diamond headlamps.	
Batteries	Available at NOLS	\$0.85/ea.	1 set	We have AA and AAA for sale.	
Disposable Lighters	Available at NOLS	\$1.00	1	Purchase at NOLS due to airline regulations.	
Personal Hygiene Articles	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	We have travel size toothpaste, toothbrushes and feminine hygiene products for sale.	
Instant Hand Sanitizer	Available at NOLS	\$2.50	1	2 oz. bottle, alcohol-based is preferable.	
Notepad	Available at NOLS	\$9	1	Look for a small, lightweight pad. We sell NOLS all-weather Expedition Journals.	



Miscellaneous Items (Continued)					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Pen	Available at NOLS	\$.75	1-2	Pen or pencil.	
Watch	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	Water-resistant. An alarm and a light feature are helpful.	
Sunglass Retainers	Available at NOLS	\$5	1	Chums® or Croakies® for your glasses or sunglasses.	
Remember to bring a passport for Canadian entrance requirements.					

Optional Items					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Coffee	Available at NOLS	\$10/lb.	1	Bring if you enjoy specialty coffee for yourself in the morning. Coffee is not supplied in the NOLS ration.	
Vitamins	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	Some students bring a multi-vitamin to supplement the diet.	
Adjustable Trekking Poles	Available at NOLS	\$69.95	1	Bring if you like using trekking poles while hiking. Two or three section, telescoping poles are easier to pack.	
Camera and Film	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	Compact camera with protective case. No heavy lenses/elaborate set-ups.	
Fleece or Insulated Vest	\$18	\$45	1	A fleece vest of Polartec® 200 or a synthetic filled vest. This is an additional layer if you tend to get cold.	
Balaclava	\$6.25	\$18	1	Fleece or wool balaclavas provide protection and insulation in severe conditions.	
Insect Repellent	Available at NOLS	\$6	1	A small bottle or tube. No aerosol spray cans.	
Mosquito Head-net	\$4	\$10	1	Mesh head-net with drawstring to protect from bugs.	



Footwear

You need a sturdy boot with good ankle support and proper fit for hiking on uneven terrain with heavy expedition packs. You'll need gaiters, camp shoes and at least 5 pair of hiking socks. If you sleep cold, bring an extra pair of socks for your sleeping bag. Depending on your instructors, some courses will use fleece booties inside the plastic mountaineering boots shells around camp instead of camp shoes.

If you decide to purchase boots in advance, please refer to the boot fitting information included in your enrollment packet.

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Plastic or Synthetic Composite Mountaineering Boots	\$50	\$275-\$340	1 pair	Plastic boots are designed for extreme conditions. They are called "double boots," which means they have a warm removable liner with a firm plastic shell. They perform well in rocky terrain, snow, extreme cold and wet conditions. This is a great type of boot for beginners and high altitude mountaineering. Synthetic hybrid boots are the new boots in mountaineering. Many of these boots contain a mix of plastic and synthetic material often with Gore-Tex® liners. These new designs are durable and light.	
Insoles	Available at NOLS	\$14	1 pair	Special insoles can provide arch support, stabilize your foot and heel, add cushion and help volume adjustment. Suggestions would be Spenco Polysorb or Superfeet insoles.	
Socks	Available at NOLS	\$10-\$16	4-6 pairs	Crew length. Socks must be heavy wool or wool/polypropylene blend. Wigwam and Smartwool are good choices.	
Liner Socks	Available at NOLS	\$5	2 pair	Lightweight wool, polypropylene or Capilene "wick dry" socks.	
Gaiters	Available at NOLS	\$60	1 pair	Worn over the boots to keep out dirt and snow. Gaiters with zippers should have a double closure system either Velcro or snaps. Gaiters with tight elastic around the boot cuff are not acceptable. Gaiters must be larger than those for leather boots and must be large enough to fit comfortably over plastic boots. We recommend Outdoor Research Crocodiles.	
Camp Shoes	Must Bring	Must Bring	1 pair	Running, tennis or cross-training shoes, in good condition, to wear around camp. Avoid expensive shoes. Open-toed "river" or "mountain" sandals are not acceptable. Think lightweight!	
Booties	\$10	\$40-\$52	1 pair	Synthetic-fill or fleece booties (down is acceptable) to wear around camp inside the shells of plastic mountaineering boots.	



Recommended Boots

NOLS Pacific Northwest rents plastic double mountaineering boots. The following boot should help you define what boots are acceptable for a mountaineering course at NOLS PNW. All boots must be step-in crampon compatible and have a removable inner bootie. A removable liner allows you to dry the boots after a day of hiking. Leather boots are not acceptable for mountaineering courses.

Plastic Boots

Asolo: AFS Evoluzione

Lowa: Civetta

Scarpa: Invernos

Scarpa: Omega

Synthetic Hybrid Boots

La Sportiva: Baruntse

La Sportiva: Nuptse

Group Equipment

Expedition members share both the use of and the responsibility for the group gear that NOLS issues. NOLS charges only for group equipment that gets lost or damaged. Keep in mind that NOLS evaluates gear from a number of perspectives beyond those that an individual user might consider. Performance, durability and simplicity are all factors we consider when we select our gear.

Group Gear

All items listed below are provided by NOLS and shared among all expedition members.

Group equipment is included as part of the course tuition; however, students will be charged for any lost or damaged group equipment.

Tents & Shelters	Climbing Protection	Maps & Compasses
Camp Stoves	Climbing Ropes	Reference Books
Fuel and Fuel Bottles	Water Treatment	Binoculars
Cooking Gear	Equipment Repair Kits	First Aid Kits
Bear Resistant Food Containers	Fishing Equipment	Ground Cloths
Trowels or Shovels		

Equipment Charges Worksheet

An equipment deposit is required of each student to cover the average cost of equipment rental and cleaning. You will be charged additionally for the replacement of any lost or damaged group equipment. Your actual expense will vary according to how much gear you rent and purchase from NOLS. Additional purchases of new and used gear may raise your total outfitting expense above your rental deposit. Rental and purchase charges will be totaled at the end of your course. Those of you who spend less than your deposit will be refunded by mail. If you anticipate a balance over your equipment deposit, please make arrangements for payment on the final day of your course. Acceptable payment methods are cash, personal checks, traveler's checks, VISA, or MasterCard.

TO ESTIMATE YOUR EQUIPMENT FEES FOR YOUR NOLS COURSE:

1. Total projected rental charges from NOLS (Listed rental prices are for the entire course.)		\$
2. Total projected purchases from NOLS: (Estimated from the checklist)	+	\$
3. Add lines 1 and 2: This is your estimated total for RENTALS and PURCHASES.	=	\$
4. Equipment deposit you have on credit (See your account statement for amount.)	-	\$
5. Subtract line 4 from line 3: This is your FINAL ESTIMATED BALANCE.	=	\$

