

# Equipment List

## Patagonia Backpacking & Fly Fishing

Careful equipment selection is essential for your overall health and comfort. Your thoroughness in this process will have a very direct impact on you and your expedition as a whole. Before selecting what to bring, buy, or borrow from a friend, it is important that you go over the equipment list carefully. Students often find they have spent unnecessary money for new gear that is unsuitable for the conditions we will encounter.

If you already own two items and are undecided which item would meet a particular equipment need, consider bringing both items to Patagonia. Prior to departure from the NOLS base, you and your instructors will work together to determine the best strategy. In advance of the course, NOLS Admissions in Lander may also be able to answer some of your equipment questions and to help you determine whether a particular item will be suitable.

If you are purchasing new items for your NOLS course, we suggest that you begin by looking through mail order catalogues (Mt. Equipment Co-op, Eastern Mountain Sports, REI, etc.) and outdoor magazines (*Backpacker*, *Outside*, *Climbing*) for an approximate gauge of price range and varieties available. A look at advertisements should help you locate a backpacking specialty store near you, or you may wish to mail order your equipment. We do not recommend purchasing footwear via mail order. NOLS has a mail-order store (<http://www.nols.edu/store>) if you wish to purchase items like wind pants, mugs, caps, etc. prior to your arrival at NOLS Patagonia. **There will be no opportunity to obtain equipment marked “Must Bring” on the following list once you arrive at NOLS Patagonia.**

**If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions Office, NOLS, 284 Lincoln Street, Lander, WY 82520 or phone 800-710-NOLS, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. mountain time, Monday through Friday.**

### Equipment Rental Deposit and Bill Payment

All members of the expedition have been charged an equipment rental deposit (not included in the tuition). This deposit amount is based on an estimated rental charge for the course. Your actual charge will vary according to how many items you obtain from NOLS, and will be totaled at the end of the course. If you are due a refund from the deposit, it will be sent to your home by mail from the Lander Headquarters. No refunds will be given in Patagonia. If your total exceeds the deposit, the balance will be billed to your home. The deposit is intended to cover the cost of use, cleaning and normal wear and tear of the equipment. **Loss and damage costs will be charged to the individual or group depending on the situation.**

### Luggage Storage and Transport

NOLS Patagonia has storage space: Items not needed for the expedition should fit in a moderate sized bag, which you may store at our headquarters at your own risk. During the course, NOLS will transport expedition gear to and from meeting points at your own risk.

**Please study this section carefully. It cannot be emphasized too strongly that your choice of personal gear could be crucial to the success of the expedition. The availability of each item is indicated as follows:**

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

**Must Bring** - Indicates that the item is **NOT AVAILABLE** from NOLS. You must bring these items.

**Rental** - Indicates you can rent the item from NOLS Patagonia.

Prices are projected for current courses at NOLS. Purchase price listed is for new gear; used gear will be discounted proportionally according to amount of wear. **ALL PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

## Footwear

It is important to your enjoyment and success that all footwear fit, and perform well. The majority of travel may be in wet, muddy river valleys or perhaps on snow and ice in below-freezing conditions.

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Wool Socks	Available at NOLS	\$14	4 pairs	Heavy wool or synthetic socks.	
Neoprene Socks	Available at NOLS	\$30	1 pair	Optional. These will be worn inside boots and should be 2 or 3 mm thick. The thicker models with covered seams (e.g., Deep Sea) offer greatest durability, an important consideration since these will probably receive daily use. Avoid socks with zippers or a prominent seam, as these will cause blisters and irritation. These socks are available at dive, kayak and windsurfing retail shops. These are socks, NOT hard-soled booties. They could be used for this course only for river crossings.	
Gaiters	Available at NOLS	\$60	1 pair	Must be just below knee-high. We recommend a sturdy nylon zipper, velcro, or non-zippered type. These take a lot of abuse so they must be durable. NOLS Patagonia has OR Crocodile gaiters available for sale.	
Camp Shoes	Must Bring	Must Bring	1 pair	For wear around camp and in town. These get a lot of wear but are rarely used for hiking, so a very light running shoe or sneaker is recommended over heavy leather travel shoes. Opened-toed shoes are not acceptable. Students and Instructors have suggested CROCS, without holes, as a good camp shoe for all courses, they are easier to dry and lighter to carry than sneakers.	
Leather Hiking Boots	Must Bring	Must Bring	1 pair	Leather boots are not available at NOLS Patagonia, so you must bring your own. They should fit comfortably with two pairs of wool or synthetic socks. See your NOLS Enrollment Packet for a boot-fitting guide.	



## Clothing

The use of clothing systems to stay safe and comfortable in adverse conditions is a fundamental aspect of the NOLS curriculum. Your primary tool is judgment, not technology. People climbed mountains and kayaked on oceans long before Gore-Tex or Polarguard existed. The new fabrics and materials simply increase the level of comfort and performance. Select for function and durability, and remember you'll be wearing these clothes for two weeks straight, so choose something you'll be happy wearing.

Minimizing weight is a high priority on an extended expedition. Whenever possible, choose equipment that fills multiple needs and enables another item to be left behind. If you are purchasing equipment, scrutinize product information and select the lightest possible combinations offering reliable quality.

Lower Body Layers					
You will need to have a total of 2-3 insulating lower body layers. Shorts and wind pants would be in addition to this.					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Hiking Shorts	Must Bring	Must Bring	1 pair	Optional. Nylon shorts with a liner are lightweight and dry quickly. Convertible pants work also great.	
Long Underwear Bottoms	Available at NOLS	\$50	1-2 pairs	These should be mid-weight polypropylene. Cotton and cotton blends are not acceptable. Many students have recommended 2 pairs.	
Expedition-weight fleece pants	\$8	Rental	1 pair	Optional, if using 2 pair of long underwear. These should fit comfortably over a light layer of underwear. Bibs or shelled fleece are acceptable but unnecessarily heavy. A full-length zipper is convenient for changing layers without removing boots.	
Wind Pants	Available at NOLS	\$63	1 pair	Breathable, nylon wind pants (not waterproof) to fit comfortably over polypro/fleece pants. Patches to reinforce the knees and seat are strongly recommended. Wind pants designed and made especially for NOLS are available at NOLS Patagonia for purchase only.	
Rain Pants	Available at NOLS	\$90	1 pair	A light, strong roomy pant works best in mountain travel. NOLS has light, rain pants by Patagonia for sale (model Rain Shadow).  <i>Note on Gore-Tex:</i> Although a pair of Gore-Tex pants or bibs will fill the need for a waterproof and breathable layer, past students have found that in very wet environments, Gore-Tex does not perform and becomes soggy and heavy. A pair of wind pants is usually more breathable than Gore-Tex shells, and coated rain gear more waterproof. The combined weight of the two layers is often less than a single Gore-Tex layer. This applies for upper body shell layers as well.	



### Upper Body Insulating Layers

You will need 3-4 insulating garments that can be comfortably layered. These should be of a variety of weights and insulating values to mix and match as conditions vary. Synthetics are preferable to wool in the damp climate. **No cotton!** Lengths, which will stay tucked in below the belt line, are preferable. Note that some items are considered a half-layer. **Choose a combination of 3 to 4 layers** (depending on how easily you become chilled) **from the following options.**

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Long Underwear Top(s)	Available at NOLS	\$50	1-2	Polypropylene-type layers are best for expedition needs. At least one of these layers should be lightweight (short sleeve is fine) for hiking in warm conditions. Additional polypropylene shirts (1 or 2) may be mid- or expedition-weight. A zippered turtleneck increases warmth and offers some protection against the sun. Short sleeve, silk-weight or very lightweight polypropylene tops are considered a half layer.	
Short Sleeve Shirt	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	A quick dry t-shirt will be very useful on really hot days. A long sleeve that rolls up to a short sleeve could also work fine.	
Fleece Vest	\$5	Rental	1	This is considered a half layer. Great for cool days on the trail!	
Expedition-weight Fleece Pullover	Available at NOLS	\$85	1	Heavier than a med-weight polypro top, but lighter than a fleece jacket – though not required, many people find it to be a useful layer. NOLS Patagonia has Mountain Hardwear expedition weight zip-Ts for sale.	
Fleece Jacket	\$7	Rental	1	Unbeatable warmth-to-weight ratio. A variety of weights and styles are on the market. Closeable cuffs, draw cords at waist and hem, and a high snug collar are features that increase warmth without adding significant weight. A medium-weight pullover (capilene, synchilla) and a jacket combined with 2 mid-weight tops would be a solid system.	
Insulated Jacket	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	An insulated jacket that is lightweight, such as the Mountain Hardwear Chugach or the Patagonia Puffball, or DAS parka make good third layers. This jacket should fit over your other layers and under your rain jacket. As a third layer you will need either a fleece jacket or an insulated jacket, but not both.	

### Upper Body Shell Layers

As with the lower body shell layers, you will need a breathable layer and a waterproof layer.

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Wind Shirt	\$8	Rental	1	A breathable nylon wind shell. Select for minimal weight, but bear in mind that this layer may take a lot of abuse. A hood is a good idea. Optional if parka is breathable.	

Upper Body Shell Layers (continued)					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Rain Parka	Available at NOLS	\$160-\$220	1	A light, durable and roomy garment for mountain travel. Ponchos are NOT an acceptable design. This garment should be fully waterproof and have a hood. Gore-Tex is acceptable, but we find that it can lose its effectiveness over time – if you are bringing an older jacket, hop in a cold shower and try it out! NOLS Patagonia has light rain shells by Patagonia, for sale, models JetStream and Rain Shadow.	

Hands					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Mittens/ Gloves	Available at NOLS	\$14-\$20	1 pair	Wool or synthetic. You will need one insulating hand layer. NOLS has gloves and mittens for sale.	
Liner Gloves	Available at NOLS	\$10	1 pair	Optional. Lightweight polypro liners. Useful on warmer days by themselves, or to add additional warmth to your glove system.	

Head					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Wool/Fleece Hat	Available at NOLS	\$10-\$15	1	A ski hat is fine. Consider ear-flaps for added protection.	
Sun hat	Available at NOLS	\$16	1	Consider a full brim for maximum protection. A typical baseball cap is acceptable, but a nylon model will dry more quickly. NOLS caps are available for purchase.	
Sunglasses	Available at NOLS	\$120	1 pair	The drugstore counter varieties are inappropriate for your needs; head for the outdoor stores. Please remember to bring a durable case to protect your glasses as well as Chums or other “neck leash”. NOLS Patagonia has Julbo sunglasses for sale.	

Sleeping Gear					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Sleeping Bag	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	We require a synthetic fill sleeping bag (Fiberfill, Dacron, Polarguard, Hollofil, Quallofil) with a hood. You will need 3 to 4 pounds of fill weight. The bag should have a temperature rating of 0 to 15° Fahrenheit. <b>Down is not acceptable, nor are bags with cotton linings.</b> Lamina 0 by Mountain Hardwear could be a good option.	



Sleeping Gear (continued)					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Sleeping Pad	\$10	\$90	1	Choose either a closed cell foam pad of 3/8 inches thickness or an inflatable Therma-Rest. If you are buying a Therma-rest, opt for a lightweight model and select the shortest necessary length. It need not extend from head to toe as you can use clothing layers and other odds and ends to make up the difference. NOLS has closed-cell foam pads for rent and inflatable Therm-a-Rest pads for sale.	
Half pad	\$2	Rental	1	A half-pad increases insulation, while on snow, and serves as a portable seat for meetings. The foam pad can be a short-cut piece of ensolite, 2-3 ft. long. This option is lighter than a crazy creek chair. You will need one seating system, either a half pad or a crazy creek chair, but not both.	
Crazy Creek Chair	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	Serves for extra insulation and as a portable seat for meetings.	
Compression Stuff Sack	\$4	Rental	1	This is to pack your sleeping bag and clothing layers that you will not need to access during the day.	
Sleeping Pad Stuff Sack	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	A nylon sack to protect the environment from your ensolite/Therma-Rest and vice versa.	

Packs and Bags					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Backpack	\$40	Rental	1	Many packs on the market are not large enough to handle the amount of gear we carry or to withstand the use we give them. Your pack must have enough room to comfortably hold 70 to 80 pounds of equipment (7000 cubic inches), and must be an internal frame design. Reliable brands include Dana Design Astraplane, Osprey, and Lowe. If you bring your own pack, it will have to be approved before use on the course. NOLS has Lowe backpacks (Small and Regular), Dana Design (Small and Medium) and Deuter packs (Regular and Large) for rent in Patagonia and available for purchase through NOLS Mail Order before the course.	
Small Nylon Stuff Sacks	\$1	Rental	2-3	Used to organize gear in your pack.	
Medium Nylon Bag	\$3.50	Rental	1	A medium-sized, very lightweight zip bag or stuff sack helps to organize and protect clothing in your backpack.	
Heavy Duty Trash Bags	Available at NOLS	\$1.50	3-4	The large, strong trash compactor variety work best. These are used to waterproof your clothing and sleeping bag. The Chilean stores don't stock strong compactor bags in small or regular sizes. We suggest you to bring some from home. These are used to waterproof your clothing and sleeping bag.	



### Miscellaneous Personal Gear

**Important:** Keep in mind that small items as sunscreen, lip balm, bandanas, watch, trash bags could be cheaper and easier to buy at home than in Chile. Coyhaique is a small remote town with limited availability of everything and where all prices tend to increase due to the costs of shipping and taxes.

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Hand Sanitizer	Available at NOLS	\$2	1	One travel-sized bottle is required for your course. You can choose to bring your own small bottle or purchase it at our base.	
Cotton Bandanas	Available at NOLS	\$3	2	Useful for all sorts of things.	
Headlamp, Extra Bulb & Batteries	Available at NOLS	\$50-\$80 (batteries \$2 each)	1	Lightweight is preferable. Bring 2 sets of batteries, or more if you use a super bright halogen bulb. Lithium battery headlamps work well in cold weather. If you will be using lithium batteries, 1-2 sets should be sufficient. NOLS Patagonia offers Petzl headlamps for sale.	
1 Small Notepad/Journal, 3 Pens or Pencils	Available at NOLS	\$1-\$3	Several	Notebooks will be required for class notes and are nice to have for personal writing. NOLS Patagonia doesn't sell waterproof journals.	
Sunscreen	Available at NOLS	\$10	2 medium tubes	Should have a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30 and should be water repellent. Keep in mind that sunscreen and lip balms are expensive in Chile.	
Lip Balm	Available at NOLS	\$4	1-2	SPF 15 or greater. Carmex is not suitable, as it has no sunscreen.	
Toiletry Items	Must Bring	Must Bring		Toothbrush, toothpaste, contact lens solution, comb, tampons, etc. This is an area to minimize weight by bringing only what you need: no more, no less. Remember, you've got to carry it!	
Insulated Mug	Available at NOLS	\$9-\$14	1	Make sure it is unbreakable! It must withstand boiling water, cold and abuse. Insulated NOLS mugs are available at NOLS Patagonia. Your mug should be at least 12 oz.	
Spoon	Available at NOLS	\$1	1	Must be durable – helps if it fits inside of the bowl.	
Bowl	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	We highly recommend that your bowl have a tight lid to carry leftovers on the trail. Tupperware is a good option, as is the Rubbermaid "Flex & Seal" medium-sized bowl. The Chilean market doesn't offer any model of bowl that is sturdy for a NOLS course. They all seem to crack and break easily. We recommend you to bring your bowl from home.	
Water Bottle	Available at NOLS	\$10-\$12	1-2	1 L capacity minimum. Wide mouth is convenient. Should be indestructible! Consider bringing an additional 1/2 L bottle instead of a mug. NOLS Patagonia has 16oz. water bottles for sale.	
Hydration System	Available at NOLS	\$40	1	Water bag with drinking tube that can fit in a backpack. Not required, but many folks have recommended them. Camelbak, Platypus and MSR all make excellent water bag/drinking tube systems.	



Miscellaneous Personal Gear (continued)					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Watch	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	Waterproof, with an alarm. Bring your own watch or buy in your travels before the start of the course.	
Lighter	Available at NOLS	\$1	2	For starting stoves and fires.	
Small Waterproof Bags	Must Bring	Must Bring	Several	For books, passport, papers etc. Nothing bigger than 8" X 12". Zip-lock bags or small stuff sacks lined with a plastic bag are good options.	
Small Carabiners	Must Bring	Must Bring	1-2	Optional. They are very useful for clipping things.	
Extra Glasses or Contacts	Must Bring	Must Bring		If you wear prescription lenses, bring a spare set. Purchase all contact solution before you arrive. If your natural vision is significantly limited, bring prescription sunglasses or glacier glasses or very high quality ski goggles to fit over your glasses. We recommend keeping your glasses safe in your carry-on luggage during your travel to Patagonia.	

Optional Items					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Trekking Poles	Must Bring	Must Bring	1 pair	They are not required but recommended. Collapsible poles are easier to pack and carry, especially when bush whacking.	
Camera and Film	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	You will want a protective, waterproof container. Keep this light, simple and small, as you will have to carry the extra weight! Dry boxes and dry bags (e.g. Pelican Cases or Sportsbags) are available from most outdoor stores. If you are investing in a new camera or binoculars for this trip, consider those that are water resistant. Because of the likelihood of adverse weather, avid photographers may be interested in bringing a small "point and shoot." Film is expensive in Chile.	
Knife	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	A small, lightweight, single blade is all you will need. A knife, with a locking system, is recommended. This will prevent the knife from opening accidentally. Highly recommended.	
Binoculars	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	A pair of small, light 7x 20 or 8 x 20 binoculars will enhance your enjoyment of the wildlife. You need a protective, waterproof container for these.	
Book	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	One is fine. When you're done, you can trade with a tent mate.	
Coffee	Must Bring	Must Bring		NOLS does not have coffee for sale. If you are attached to a particular brand/type, we suggest you bring it from home. If you choose to bring ground coffee, you may consider a small, Lexan (unbreakable plastic) coffee press. The other less expensive option is to make coffee "cowboy" style, using a bandana to strain the grounds.	



Optional Items (continued)					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Earplugs	Must Bring	Must Bring	1 pair	Earplugs are great for traveling, and great for sharing tents with loud sleepers.	

For Pre- and Post-Course Travel					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Photos of Family and Friends, Small Map	Must Bring	Must Bring		It's great to have photos of your community back home to share with people you meet. Chileans are very family oriented and will always ask about your family and hometown.	
Small Towel, Shampoo, Soap, Deodorant	Must Bring	Must Bring		Only for pre and post-course use. Travel-size.	
English/Spanish Pocket Dictionary and Phrase Book	Must Bring	Must Bring		Optional, but a small, travel edition can be helpful throughout the course unless you are fluent in Spanish. Plastic bindings are best.	
Insect Repellent	Must Bring	Must Bring		Optional – our course dates are post-mosquito season at the end of the summer.	
Energy Bars	Available at NOLS	\$2		Some students in the past have recommended bringing a few of these from home. We have Power Bars available for sale at NOLS Patagonia. Keep in mind the NOLS rations provide snacks/trail food. All food is locally purchased in Chile.	

**Passport:** Also bring a photocopy of the identification page. **You need to retain your Tourist Visa that you'll receive upon entering the country.** For more information, see the Travel & Logistics section of your pre-course information packet.

Fishing Equipment					
The course instructors are available for direct phone or e-mail consultation. Please contact the Admissions Office to arrange this if desired. Generally, the fishing will be in clear, cold-water streams with a fairly steep gradient and lots of stone and big rocks. Students should bring a lightweight traveling selection of their favorite, customary gear.					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Fishing Rod and Reel	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	5 or 6 weight, 4 to 7 piece travel rod highly recommended, extra spool is optional. Past students have suggested a “tough” rod tube for traveling in/out of the field.	
Line	Must Bring	Must Bring		5 or 6 weight (to match rod/reel), weight-forward, floating, “trout” line with 100-150yds of backing. If you bring an extra spool, a sinking or sink-tip line of the appropriate weight could be useful.	
Leaders	Must Bring	Must Bring		9ft. nylon or fluorocarbon, size 3x thru 5x.	
Tippet	Must Bring	Must Bring		30yd. spools, nylon or fluorocarbon to match leader material, 3x thru 6x.	



Fishing Equipment (continued)					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Dry Fly Box	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	standard patterns recommended, generally size 16 to size 12. Good choices include Parachute Adams, Elk Hair Caddis, Light Cahill, Royal Wulff, Irresistible, Yellow and Orange Stimulators (#12-#8's), Dave's Hopper (#12-#8's), Chernoble Ant (#8's and #6's), Club Sandwich (#8's and #6's), Turk's Tarantula (#10-#6's)	
Streamers and Nymphs Box	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	standard patterns recommended. Good choices include Black and Olive Woolly Buggers (your choice of plain, beadhead, conehead, krystalflash and weighted options, size 10 thru 6, Muddler Minnow (#12-#8), Leech (Black, Brown, Purple, and Olive, #10-#6), Prince Nymph (beadhead, #16-#10), Hare's Ear (beadhead, #16-#12), Copper John (#20-#16), Halfback (beadhead, #14-#8), Stonefly (Black, Brown, Kaufman's, #12-#8). Some beginner students have suggested carrying 2-3 of each fly.	
Fly Fishing Tools and Gadgets	Must Bring	Must Bring		Clippers, floatant, split shot, strike indicators, hemistats/forceps, Leatherman-type multi-tool, etc.	
Fishing Vest or Chest/Fannypack	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	Bring what's comfortable, but lighter and simpler is definitely better for a backpacking trip.	
Polarized Sunglasses	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	This is probably the single most useful aid in seeing and catching fish – Highly recommended by instructors and students.	
Wading Shoes	Must Bring	Must Bring	1 pair	Closed toe, above-the-ankle boots with felt bottoms are the best option for safety and traction. Should be sized to fit either stocking-footed waders, neoprene or wool socks.	
Waders	Must Bring	Must Bring	1 pair	A pair of lightweight, waterproof/breathable waist or chest waders that pack compactly will improve the comfort and duration of your time in the water. Stocking foot waders with a wading boot will be the most flexible option and they dry more easily. If it's warm you can use the wading boots without the waders. For safety, a waist belt is a must.	
Net	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	Optional – most fish we'll find are likely to be small enough to manage effectively without a net (~12"-19"). Nets can be cumbersome and fragile to travel with, both internationally as well as backpacking.	
Wading Staff	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	Optional - a lightweight, collapsible wading staff may come in handy.	



## Group Gear

Group gear is distributed among all expedition members. The specific equipment taken on your course will be determined by the anticipated weather and terrain and the number of group members. All of this equipment is provided by NOLS and is included in your tuition; it is not part of your personal rental fee.

- Multi Fuel Stove and Cook Gear
- Food Bags
- Fuel Bottles
- Repair Kits
- Maps
- Shovels
- Compasses

**Group Library:** books can range from flora and fauna, technical skills, environmental adequate issues, to Chilean history and politics.

**First Aid Kits:** our instructors bring a first aid and drug kit, so no need to bring your own.

The expedition format of the course emphasizes the importance of equipment care: The success of your expedition is highly dependent on the performance of your gear which in turn depends on the care that you give it. Gear maintenance and repair will be ongoing. Normal wear and tear is expected, and most repairs can be successfully executed in the field. However, students will be held financially responsible for the loss of any items and for any damage that is due to mistreatment or neglect. This could be as small as a lost \$ 2.00 cook spoon or as large as a poorly treated \$700 tent. At the end of the course, a group gear “damage and loss” charge will be calculated and distributed among the appropriate members of the course. Individuals or groups of individuals will be held fully accountable if they alone bear the responsibility for the loss or damaged.

