

# Equipment List

## Patagonia Sea Kayaking

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 and are undecided between two options to 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 headquarters 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 sea kayaking 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 5:00p.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. You will need to obtain most of the items on this list prior to your course. 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 that the item is available from NOLS Patagonia for **RENTAL**.

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					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Wool Socks	Available at NOLS	\$14	3-4 pair	Heavy wool or synthetic socks.	
Rubber Boots "Wellingtons"	\$12-\$20	Rental	1 pair	<p>Knee-high rubber boots, with a sturdy sole, that fit comfortably with two pairs of wool socks. NOLS has sizes 12 and smaller for rent (larger sizes are next to impossible to find in Chile). <b>If your feet are larger than this, you must bring your own rubber boots They will be your primary footwear during this course.</b> If you have a shoe size of 13 or larger, we recommend that you also look into buying a pair of neoprene booties (ankle high dive boots with zippers at the side and hard soles) to wear as your paddling shoes because big boots can be difficult, or uncomfortable, to wear inside a kayak. This will leave you the option of dry rubber boots around camp in wet weather.</p> <p>If you own a pair of boots that you like, you can bring those. Extra-tuff and LaCrosse are recommended brands. For people with size 12 feet and larger, "Chota" makes a lower profile neoprene kayaking boot worth checking out, available at REI and other online merchants.</p>	
River Sandals	Must Bring	Must Bring	1 pair	<p>These should be made of rubber/nylon, and have a secure heel strap — leather sandals and/or "flip-flops" are not acceptable. Keep in mind that Velcro does not work well when submersed in water. Sandals that allow for wearing a sock are preferable. While sunny warm days might be few or non-existent, these will be useful for wearing while practicing wet-exit and re-entry skills, and for allowing your feet to dry out and breathe on a dry day in camp.</p>	
Camp Shoes	Must Bring	Must Bring	1 pair	<p>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. Some instructors will not allow sandals or flip-flops as water shoes for the Sea kayaking course. Students and Instructors have suggested CROCS without holes as a good camp shoe for all courses, easier to dry and lighter to carry than sneakers.</p>	
Wool Felt Insoles	Available at NOLS	\$7	1 pair	<p>This is a highly recommended item to use inside of the rubber boots. They offer good insulation when stepping into cold water. NOLS Patagonia has Lacrosse felt insoles for sale.</p>	



## Clothing

The use of clothing systems to stay healthy 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 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 and bulk 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, remember that "water-resistant" does not mean "waterproof," 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.	
Long Underwear Bottoms	Available at NOLS	\$50	1-2 pair	These should be mid-weight polypropylene. Cotton and cotton blends are not acceptable. Many students have recommended 2 pairs.	
Quick-dry Boxers	Must Bring	Must Bring	1-2 pair	Optional. Past students have suggested bringing 1 or 2 boxers to wear instead of long underwear when the good weather allows it. Patagonia and Mountain Hardwear offer good options.	
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. Gore-Tex is acceptable. 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 and many people find them more comfortable for paddling. 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	Available at NOLS	\$50	1-2	Polypropylene-type are best for expedition needs. Additional polypropylene shirts (1 or 2) may be mid- or expedition- weight. A zippered turtleneck increases versatility, 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 short sleeve could also work fine.	
Fleece Vest	\$5	Rental	1	This is considered a <b>half layer</b> . Great for cool days while paddling.	
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-T's 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, Synchronilla) 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 a 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, or one layer that is breathable and waterproof, and fits comfortably over insulating layers.

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 rain 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 durable rain jacket, with a hood, in good condition can work in lieu of the heavy storm jacket described below. Make sure it is truly waterproof, older waterproof/breathable fabrics tend to lose their ability to repel water. Keep in mind that you may find yourself doing some bushwhacking while wearing this layer. Rain Ponchos are not acceptable. We stock rain gear by Patagonia, models Rain Shadow and Jetstream for sale. The rain jacket should be big enough to fit over your fleece or synthetic jacket.	
Heavy Storm Jacket & Bibs	\$19 Each	Rental	1 each	These are optional, but durable, waterproof rain gear for wearing on stormy days in camp. If you bring your own, think "heavy-duty fishermen-style": Helly Hansen, Grundig's, Atlantis, or their equivalent, are acceptable. <b>If you do not already own these, we recommend that you rent from NOLS Patagonia.</b> We have Helly Hansen storm gear.	
Paddling Jacket	\$27-\$40	Rental	1	This should be either fully-coated waterproof, or a waterproof breathable jacket made specifically for paddling. These jackets usually have neoprene seals at the wrists and neck for keeping water out while paddling. Many find a hood to be a valuable feature on rainy traveling days as well. NOLS has paddling jackets for rent.	

Hands					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Liner Gloves	Available at NOLS	\$10	1 pair	While not required, liner gloves are <b>highly recommended</b> and versatile.	
Mittens/ Gloves	Available at NOLS	\$10-\$20	1 pair	Insulating wool or synthetic. They can be combined with the liner gloves. NOLS has wool gloves and mittens for sale	
Neoprene Gloves	Available at NOLS	\$40	1 pair	Optional. They are not required. Neoprene gloves could be worn for warm-while-wet protection.	

Head					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Wool/Fleece Hat	Available at NOLS	\$10-\$15	1	Consider ear-flaps for added protection.	
Balaclava/ Neck Warmer	\$2	Rental	1	Fleece, polypropylene or wool to provide protection and insulation in combination with your hat. Balaclavas offer great versatility.	



Head (continued)					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
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.	
Sunglasses	Available at NOLS	\$120	1 pair	The drugstore counter varieties are inappropriate for your needs; head for the outdoor stores. Glasses should transmit no more than 10% visible light and be at least 97% UV protected. 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.	
Sou'wester Rain Hat	\$7	Rental	1	A large-brimmed hat of waterproof material, with a chinstrap for windy days. Ideally should be large enough to fit over your wool/fleece hat. Outdoor Research, Kokatat and Helly Hansen all make quality options. NOLS Patagonia has Helly Hansen rubber rain hats for rent.	

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 Pad	\$10	\$90	1	Choose either a closed cell foam pad of 3/8 inches thickness or an inflatable Therma-Rest style pad. It should be long enough to accommodate the full length of your sleeping bag, though if you already own a 3/4 length pad, feel free to bring it instead. You can use your half-pad (see below) to make up the additional length. NOLS has foam pad for rent and full-length Therma-Rest sleeping 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.	
Compression Stuff Sack	\$8	Rental	1	Large enough to compress your sleeping bag as small as possible. This will also be lined with 1-2 plastic bags for waterproofing.	
Sleeping Pad Stuff Sack	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	This will help protect your pad from puncture while it is packed and can be lined with a plastic bag to keep your pad dry until you need it.	
Crazy Creek Chair	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	Serves for extra insulation and as a portable seat for meetings.	

Packs and Bags					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Boat Bag	\$10	Rental	1	This is a large, but lightweight, cordura zip duffel that is used for storing all your smaller bags while in camp and traveling to and from the field. We recommend renting one of ours, as this item tends to take a lot of abuse. If you choose to bring your own, make sure it is made of a sturdy fabric, with a strong zipper, and that it will roll up to a small size for storing in your kayak while traveling.	
Small Nylon Stuff Sacks	\$1	Rental	1-3	Small sacks (approx 6-8" x 10-12") as needed, for organizing toiletries and other small personal items within your dry bags/nylon bags.	
Small Nylon Zip Bag	\$3.50	Rental	1	A small, durable zip duffel (approx. 10" x 18"), which will be lined with a plastic bag to make a waterproof lap bag while traveling. This bag should be just large enough for an extra layer, hat, snacks, sunscreen and a small camera/binoculars. A similar size dry bag can work as well, though many folks prefer the easy access of a zipper. Larger bags will not be acceptable as a lap bag for safety reasons.	
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.	
Kayak Dry Bag	\$8	Rental	2	Medium size (15-20 L) a nylon stuff sack, or zip bag lined with a plastic bag is an easy alternative that works.	

Kayak Gear					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
PFD	No Charge	No Charge	1	A Class III Personal Floatation Device designed for kayaking. NOLS Patagonia uses class III, universal sized PFD's. NOLS Patagonia as of year 2007 is required to have PFD's that are inspected and certified by the Armada de Chile (Chilean Navy). This means that all of the PFD's on our courses have to be of a make, model and manufacturer that is approved and stamped by the certifying body here in Chile.	
Poagies	\$7	Rental	1 pair	A hand layer that fits over a paddle shaft for cold wet days on the water. NOLS rents neoprene poagies.	



### 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 where all prices tend to increase due to the costs of shipping and taxes.

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Cotton Bandanas	Available at NOLS	\$3	2	Useful for all sorts of things.	
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.	
Headlamp, Extra Bulb & Batteries	Available at NOLS	\$50-\$80 (Batteries \$2 each)	1	Lightweight is preferable. Bring 1-2 sets of batteries. Lithium battery headlamps work well in cold weather. 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	1	Medium size. 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 <b>not</b> 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 in 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 water. Tupperware is a good option, as is the Rubbermaid "Flex & Seal" medium-sized bowl.	
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	Not required, but many folks have recommended them. Camelbak, Platypus and MSR all make excellent waterbag/drinking tube systems.	
Thermos	Available at NOLS	\$30	1	Highly recommended! A good quality, non-breakable thermos is great while kayaking and in camp for keeping hot water quickly available.	
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!!	



Miscellaneous Personal Gear (continued)					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Lighter	Available at NOLS	\$1	2	For starting stoves and fires.	
Small Waterproof Bags	Must Bring	Must Bring	2-3	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.	
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. 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
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 more expensive in Chile than in the U.S.A. Keep in mind that dry boxes larger than approximately 8"x10" will not be allowed in the cockpit of your kayak, nor on the deck, while traveling, for safety reasons.	
Knife	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	A small, lightweight, single blade is all you will need. A knife with a locking system is recommended to 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. Again, you need a protective, waterproof container for these. Highly recommended by past students.	
Book	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	One is fine. Should be small and easily packable. When you're done, you can trade with a tentmate.	
Coffee	Must Bring	Must Bring		NOLS does not have coffee available 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
Umbrella	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	A big golf one with a fiberglass shaft that won't rust is best. We know you may think it's a joke, but some people won't go kayaking without one. Very useful for classes in the rain, and bathroom walks on wet days!!	
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, Friends	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		Bugs are not usually an issue on the coast, but a small bottle is okay to bring along.	
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.



## 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 a part of your personal rental fee.

- Multi Fuel Stove and Cook Gear
- Sea Kayaks and Paddles and emergency gear
- Chilean Maps and Charts
- Food Bags
- Fuel Bottles
- Repair Kits
- Maps, Compasses
- Shovels
- PFDs- Personal Flootation Device

**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 \$6.00 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 damage.

