

# Equipment List

## Semester in the Rockies

**Welcome to NOLS!** We look forward to having you with us at NOLS Rocky Mountain. Please take time to read the following information before making your equipment choices.

Equipment selection and care is an essential wilderness skill. There is a bewildering variety of equipment on today's market. NOLS Rocky Mountain provides an Outfitting Department for our students for this very reason. We are a full-service retail store and rental facility for outdoor equipment and clothing. We have expert staff with over 40 years experience who can completely outfit you from **head to toe** for your expedition needs. The products that we carry have been selected for and field-tested on NOLS Rocky Mountain courses.

Here are three options to help guide your gear purchasing process:

- 1) Purchase from us. We have a full retail store with experienced staff that can outfit you completely, tailoring your options according to route, weather, and time of year. This will guarantee you will get only the equipment you need with no extra purchases.
- 2) Already have items? Bring them along! Your instructors will inspect your gear and determine if it is suitable for your course. If an item is not approved, you can leave it with your luggage in our storage lockers.
- 3) Want to shop before your course begins? Visit our preferred retailers- additional info below.

We understand that the equipment list may be daunting. That's why we are here to help you with the process! When you purchase or rent from us, our experts will provide you with some of the best gear, boots and clothing on the market, at a reasonable price, with consideration to the route, weather, and time of year you are traveling. Who knows; maybe you'll even save money on any extra airline fees, such as extra baggage costs and/or overweight luggage fees on your travels to NOLS Rocky Mountain.

Additionally, if you already own gear or clothing, you are welcome to bring any of the items on the equipment list. We are big advocates of re-using or recycling where appropriate. As mentioned, your instructors will inspect your gear and determine if it is suitable for your course. If an item is not approved, you can leave it with your luggage in our storage lockers.

If you wish to buy gear before your course start, consider our preferred retailers. Preferred retailers are retail stores whose staff is familiar with NOLS. Note: If you buy a new piece of gear or clothing for the course, please keep the tags on the item and save your receipt. That way, you have the opportunity to return your purchases if necessary. Ask the NOLS Admission Office about Preferred Retailers in your area by calling 800-710-NOLS (6657) or by visiting [www.nols.edu](http://www.nols.edu).

**Purchase at NOLS RM-** Indicates that the item is available at NOLS for PURCHASE ONLY.

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

**Summer rental prices cover the entire course. All prices are subject to change.**

In addition to your course tuition, you have been billed an equipment rental deposit. This deposit will be applied directly to the charges you incur for equipment rental, cleaning, purchase of personal items, and any loss or damage to our gear. Total charges will vary depending upon the amount of equipment that you rent or purchase from us. The equipment rental and purchase prices located in the gear checklist will allow you to estimate your charges. If your bill is less than the deposit, the difference will be refunded to you by mail. If you think that your bill may exceed the deposit, please bring cash, travelers' checks, personal check, Visa or MasterCard to cover the excess. If you do not have a form of payment, we will bill 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 Rocky Mountain Outfitting: | (307) 332-1422 | [outfitting@nols.edu](mailto:outfitting@nols.edu) | [www.nols.edu/lander/outfitting](http://www.nols.edu/lander/outfitting) |



### Upper Body Layers

We layer our clothing, combining different garments to achieve optimum insulation and protection from wind, rain and snow. We use either synthetic or wool fibers, which insulate when wet. We avoid cotton, which is poor insulation when wet. It is common to need 3 insulating layers and a vest.

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Base Layer (Mid-Weight Synthetic)	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$40-\$60	1	Mid-weight underwear top made of wool, synthetic, or Capilene®	
Middle Layer (Fleece Pullover)	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$50-\$60	1	Polyester fleece pullover/expedition weight top of Polartec® 100 or 200, or a wool sweater.	
Top Layer (Synthetic Jacket)	\$40	\$170-\$190	1	Synthetic full-length zip jacket. Fleece or fiberfill jacket of Polartec® 300 or equivalent weight. We carry the Mountain Hardwear Compressor Jacket.	
Wind Shirt / Anorak	\$20	\$55	1	A lightweight, breathable, durable nylon wind shell in either pullover or parka style. Lightweight nylon exercise jackets usually are not sturdy enough to survive a NOLS course.	
Rain Jacket	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$120-\$150	1	A sturdy, roomy waterproof jacket with a hood. Both coated nylon and breathable fabrics such as Gore-Tex® are acceptable.	
T-shirt	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$28- \$35	1	A lightweight polyester, wool / Capilene® T-shirt.	

Our advice? Bring the sweaters, fleece jackets and other layers you think might work. We'll advise you on the best combination for your course, the season and area.

### Lower Body Layers

You will need 1-2 synthetic insulating layers (usually an under layer and in early summer, a pair of fleece pants). All must fit comfortably over each other so that they can be worn at the same time. If you tend to get cold easily, add a middle layer of mid-weight bottoms to the under layer and fleece pants.

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Base Layer (Mid-Weight Synthetic)	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$30-\$45	1 pair	Mid-weight bottoms of high performance polyester, synthetic, or Capilene®. Cotton and cotton blends are not acceptable.	
Middle Layer (Exp-Weight Synthetic)	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$40-\$60	1 pair	Expedition-weight bottoms that fit comfortably over the under layer bottoms.	



Lower Body Layers (Continued)					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Wind Pants	\$20	\$60	1 pair	Nylon shell pants. These should fit comfortably over all lower-body layers. Side-zippers allow the pants to be put on over boots. Breathable fabrics such as Gore-Tex are acceptable, but lightweight "running pants" are NOT durable enough. We recommend renting NOLS wind pants. They are the most popular piece of equipment NOLS has designed. Many students purchase their wind pants at the end of their course.	
Rain Pants	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$90-\$110	1 pair	Optional. Although not required, some people like to use rain pants in conjunction with a rain jacket.	
Nylon Shorts	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$40-\$60	1 pair	Loose-fitting nylon athletic/river shorts.	
Briefs/Sports Bras	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$18-\$32	1 pair	Optional. We recommend men go without underwear, and use nylon shorts with liners. Women can wear what's comfortable; cotton, silk, or synthetics are fine. Bras must be silk or synthetic.	
Our advice? Bring the synthetic or wool long johns, fleece or exercise pants you think might work. We'll advise you on the best combination for your course, the season and area.					

Head, Neck & Hand Layers					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Baseball Cap or Wide Brim Hat	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$18.95	1	To protect ears and face from the sun. Available with NOLS logo.	
Balaclava	\$4	\$17	1	Optional. Full head and neck coverings with an opening for the face. Usually of Polartec® 100 or 200 fleece.	
Wool or Fleece Hat	\$4	\$15-\$20	1	A warm hat made of wool or fleece.	
Mosquito Headnet	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$6	1	A light nylon headnet.	
Gloves	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$17-\$55	1 pair	Ragg wool or synthetic (fleece).	
Mittens	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$9-\$17	1 pair	Optional for August courses. Ragg wool or synthetic (fleece). Mountaineering courses may need 2 pr.	
Mitten Shells	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$50-\$65	1 pair	Optional. Except for courses beginning before June 25. Water-repellent nylon or Gore-Tex® shells that fit over your mittens or gloves.	
Our advice? As long as they're not cotton, bring your gloves and mittens. We'll check them and see if they'll work. You may need one pair, or depending on the weather, you may need two pairs.					

### Packs & Bags

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Backpack	\$100	\$250	1	Our packs are large expedition models with a volume of 5500 to 6100 cubic inches made by Deuter exclusively for NOLS. <b>If you bring an internal frame pack, it will be examined by your instructors to determine its suitability for your course and route. It must have a volume of 5500 to 6100 cubic inches.</b>	
Lash Straps	\$4	\$4	1 pair	We use these to lash gear/sleeping pad to a pack; at least 24" long.	
Summit/Day Pack	\$20	\$50-\$100	1	Optional. You only need one if you are using an external frame pack.	
Small Stuff Sacks	\$2	\$4	2 or 3	2 or 3 small nylon or mesh sacks for organizing items in your pack.	
Zip (Duffel) Bag	\$4	\$12	1	A lightweight medium-sized zippered nylon bag (approximately 12" x 24") is used as part of our packing system.	

Our advice? An expedition backpack is a major purchase. If you don't already own one, we think you should use ours, gain some experience, then make an informed decision on your needs.

### Sleeping Gear

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Sleeping Bag	\$60	\$180	1	Synthetic-filled bags (Quallofil®, Hollofil®, Polarguard®, etc.) perform well in the variety of conditions we encounter. A bag with approximately 3 pounds of fill rated to 5° or 10° F and having 6-8 inches of loft is required.	
Summit/Compression Pack	\$12	\$49.95	1	We use the Lowe Attack Summit that doubles as a compression stuff sack for your sleeping bag and a summit pack for day hikes.	
Plastic Trash Bags	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$50	2 or 3	2-3 heavy-duty lawn and garden bags (33 gallon) to help waterproof your sleeping bag and backpack.	
Sleeping Pad	\$4	\$15-\$75	1	Should be closed-cell foam and 3/8" thick. Used for padding and insulation between sleeping bag and ground. We highly recommend and sell self-inflating sleeping mat as one of your pads. Thermarest and Insulmat are great brands.	

Our advice? A sleeping bag is another major purchase. If you don't already own one, we think you should use ours, gain some experience, then make an informed decision on your needs.



Footwear					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Boots	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$175-\$250	1 pair	Sturdy leather heavy backpacking or light mountaineering boots with good ankle support.	
Socks, Wool	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$13-\$19	6 pairs	Heavy ragg wool or heavy wool/polypropylene blend.	
Liner Socks	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$6	2 or 3	Optional. Lightweight wool, polypropylene or Capilene® "wick dry" socks. You will need at least two pairs if you are using a liner sock/wool sock combination in your hiking boots.	
Gaiters	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$50	1 pair	Knee high, durable.	
Camp Shoes	Must Bring	Must Bring	1 pair	Running, tennis, or cross-training athletic shoes.	

### Recommended Boots

NOLS has been outfitting people with boots for many years and our priorities have remained the same: We want you to have boots that provide adequate protection for your feet, that are durable enough to withstand extended rugged wear, and provide reasonable comfort. Many boots available on the market do not meet these criteria, and a boot that is good for your personal use may not be a good boot for your NOLS course.

Medium-weight, off-trail backpacking/light mountaineering boots work best. They provide good support for off-trail hiking with heavy packs, and usually require less break-in time than heavyweight mountaineering boots. Here are some features to look for:

- Constructed from full-grain one-piece leather upper or a combination of nylon or Gore-Tex and leather
- A sole that provides good traction, like Vibram® or other lugged sole
- ½ to ¾ length shank or full poly mid-sole stiffener within the sole to provide foot support and protection
- Ankle support — Trail runner sneakers are not acceptable; below-the-ankle hiking boots are not acceptable
- Comfortable fit with your preferred hiking socks. Boots that are too small commonly cause blisters.

Please see the Boot Fitting Guide in your Enrollment Packet for instructions on how to properly fit boots.

The following list of acceptable boots is not exhaustive and is to be used for *suggestions only*. The boots listed here should help define what types are acceptable for your course. It is fine to substitute a similar boot for one of those listed here.

Asolo: Power Matic series; TPS series; Power Light series; Matrix series; Energy series

Garmont: Dakota; Synchro Plus GTX; Cypress GTX, FC Eco 4.0 GTX

La Sportiva: Thunder II GTX; Cascade GTX

Lowa: Tahoe GTX; Tibet GTX; Banff; Pingora GTX

Montrail: Feather Peak GTX

Oboz: Wind River

Scarpa: Mustang GTX; Barun GTX; Nepal Pro GTX; SL M3; Escape GTX

Vasque: Wasatch GTX; Bitterroot GTX; Summit GTX; Sundowner GTX series; Clarion GTX: Breeze GTX

Please note that boot manufacturers often rename their product line. Visit the manufacturer's website or contact us if you have questions.



### Climbing Equipment

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Helmet	No Charge	NA	1	You may bring your own UIAA approved helmet.	
Rock Shoes	\$40	\$80-140	1 pair	Shoes should be suitable for wearing and climbing all day, and using for multi-pitch climbs.	
Harness	No Charge	\$70	1	We have harnesses to rent, but if you own one, bring it along.	
Cotton Climbing Pants	Purchase Only	\$48	1	Optional. Loose fitting pants to protect your legs while climbing.	
Chalk Bag and Ball	Purchase Only	\$18/\$4	1	Optional. Some students and instructors find these useful.	

Our advice? If you own a harness, helmet, chalk bag and pair of shoes, bring them along. If your instructors approve, you can use them. We will use the school's protection, belay devices, sling, carabiners and ropes.

### River Equipment

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
River sandals	Must Bring	\$80	1 pair	Rubber sandals with a heel strap. Alp, Teva and Chaco are common brands.	
Neoprene Booties	\$3	\$5	1 pair	A river or diving bootie that will stay on your feet while swimming. It should have a rubber sole.	
Long-sleeved cotton shirt	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	A collared long-sleeved cotton shirt is an effective form of sun protection.	
Light-weight cotton pants	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	Convenient to keep sun off your legs around camp.	
Swimsuits	Must Bring	Must Bring	2	Most men prefer wearing nylon shorts. Some women like to wear lycra swimsuits in the river; others prefer nylon shorts and a sports bra-type top. Having a second set allows you to designate one "dry" set to wear in camp and a "wet" set to wear on the river.	
Wetsuit	\$10	NA	1	3mm Neoprene wetsuit. Full Body or Farmer John style.	
Waterproof Breathable Top	\$8.50	\$60-\$85	1	A top layer waterproof breathable insulating fabric used in place of 3mm wetsuit.	
Waterproof Breathable Bottom	\$8.50	\$60-\$85	1	A bottom layer waterproof breathable insulating fabric used in place of 3mm wetsuit.	
Paddle Jacket	\$5	\$50-\$85	1	Nylon jacket worn over insulating layers when kayaking or rafting. Also called a splash jacket.	
Small mesh "dunk bag"	\$1	Must Bring	1	We use small mesh bags to store our personal dishes (cup, bowl, spoon) on this section. Bring one if you have it.	
Medium Size Dry Bag	\$10	\$55-\$90	1	3 cu. Ft. 16" diameter x 25" tall dry bag made of heavy duty, durable waterproof material. Used to carry all personal clothing.	



### River Equipment (Continued)

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Small Dry Bag	\$2	\$15-\$27	1	600 cu. In. 6.5" diameter x 19" tall dry bag made of heavy duty, durable waterproof material. Used to carry all personal items needed during the day.	

Our advice? Rental of whitewater specific gear (PFD, helmet, paddle jacket) is included in your tuition. Feel free to bring any personal whitewater gear you have and your instructors will check it to make sure it is appropriate for your trip.

### Miscellaneous Items

Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Insulated Mug	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$3.50-4	1	12 to 20 oz. insulated mugs with lids are preferred. Available with NOLS logo.	
Bowl	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$7	1	A bowl with a snap-on lid is handy.	
Spoon	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$1	1	Lexan spoons are light, durable and popular.	
Water Bottle	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$13-\$30	1-2	1-2 wide-mouth quart- or liter-size plastic bottles, like Nalgene® bottles.	
Lip Balm	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$3	1	Stick, cream, or tube type moisturizing balm with sun protection factor (SPF) 15 or greater.	
Sunscreen	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$7-9	1-2	A 3 to 6 ounce tube with sun protection factor (SPF) 15 or greater.	
Bandannas	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$2	2 or 3	A few of these are always handy.	
Head-Lamp/Flashlight	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$29-40	1	Durable and lightweight. Headlamps are popular. Bring spare batteries.	
Disposable Lighters	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$1.50	2	Use for lighting your camp stove.	
Insect Repellent	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$5	1 or 2	1-2 small bottles. No aerosol spray cans.	
Sunglass Retainers	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$5	1	Optional. Chums® or Croakies® for keeping track of your glasses or sunglasses. Available with NOLS logo.	
Toiletries	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	Toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, brush, skin lotion, tampons. Travel or trial sizes are enough. Bring your own.	
Watch	Purchase Only	\$40-65	1	A watch with an alarm is a nice feature.	
Notepad And Pencil	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$10	1	A small, lightweight pad is fine.	



Miscellaneous Items (Continued)					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Sunglasses	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$50-\$160	1 pair	Any good quality sunglasses with 100% UV protection will work fine. If you wear prescription lenses and have limited vision without them, bring your own prescription sunglasses or look for a quality pair of clip-on polarized shades at a specialty fishing store. Lenses should be dark and block 100 percent Ultra Violet. Glass lenses will get scratched less than plastic. We sell Native Eyewear and Optic Nerve. Julbo, Smith, Coyote Vision, Oakley, and Bausch & Lomb are good brands.	
Instant Hand Sanitizer	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$2	2	Must have 2 oz. bottles for keeping hands clean.	
Pocket Knife	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$20-45	1	One small knife is sufficient; simple Swiss Army knives are popular.	
Our advice? Keep the toiletries, pocketknife and other gear to small sizes. We work to keep our pack weight as low as possible, but our packs are heavy. Saving every ounce is essential!					

Optional Items					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Binoculars	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	Small travel binoculars work well.	
Prescription Glasses And Contact Lenses	Must Bring	Must Bring	2 or 3 pairs	Bring a spare pair of glasses or lenses. Contact lens wearers should also bring a pair of glasses as backup. Again, prescription sunglasses are a nice item to have in reserve.	
Vitamins	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	Not necessary, but a small quantity of multi-vitamins is popular among staff and students for this length of course.	
Water Treatment	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	NOLS supplies Potable Aqua tablets (hydroperiodide) or Aqua Mira for backcountry water purification. However, if you are sensitive to iodine or chlorine you may need to bring your water filter such as the PUR Scout or Hiker, or the SWEETWATER Guardian.	
Book	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	A small paperback reading book.	
Trekking Poles	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$65-\$75	1	A sturdy 2-3 section pole for ease of pack ability. We sell the Black Diamond Trail Back and Leki Eagle.	
Camera	Must Bring	Must Bring	1	Lightweight, 35 mm compact cameras are sufficient; bring a protective case. Avoid heavy lenses and elaborate set-ups.	



Optional Items (Continued)					
Equipment	Rental Price	Purchase Price	Quantity	Comments	Check List
Backpacker's Camp Chair	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$20-\$50	1	Crazy Creek chair or one with Therm-A-Rest fitting. Available with NOLS logo.	
Hydration System	Purchase at NOLS RM	\$30-\$50	1	Very handy and popular. We carry Camelbak® packs.	
Our advice? Keep camera and other gear to small sizes. We work to keep our pack weight as low as possible. Saving every ounce is essential!					

### Group Equipment

The items listed below are provided by NOLS and shared among all expedition members. Group equipment is included as part of the course tuition. Students will be charged for any lost or damaged group equipment.

Tents & Shelters	Climbing Protection	Maps & Compass
Camp Stoves	Climbing Ropes	Reference Books
Fuel and Fuel Bottles	Helmets and Harnesses	Binoculars
Cooking Gear	Ice Axes	First Aid Kits
Bear Resistant Food Containers	Snowshoes (if necessary)	Equipment Repair Kits
Trowels or Shovels	Fishing Equipment	

