

Equipment List

Archer Junior Wilderness Expedition

National Outdoor Leadership School

Welcome to NOLS! We have designed this list to help you decide what equipment you will need for your course. Please read the following information carefully before making any equipment choices.

Equipment Selection

This list is broken up into three sections:

Must Bring – The item is **NOT AVAILABLE** from NOLS; please bring it from home.

Purchase Only – The item is available from NOLS, but for **PURCHASE ONLY**.

Rental Only – The item is available for **RENT** from NOLS.

You are welcome to bring any gear on this list that you already own. Please try to match your selections as closely as possible to the items described. Your instructors will inspect any gear you bring to determine if it is suitable for your course's specific route and anticipated weather. If an item is not approved, you can leave it with your luggage in our storage closets. You may be asked to rent or purchase gear from our outfitter department to supplement what you brought with you.

Your instructor team, recent weather, and route will ultimately determine which gear is best for your expedition.

If you have not spent much time in the outdoors and have little experience with outdoor gear, this list may seem overwhelming at first. Please don't stress! Just do your best to find items that match most closely those described. Do some research on the Web or bring this list to your local gear store for help. You are also welcome to call us at NOLS Professional Training (800-710-NOLS x3); we love chatting with students before courses begin!

Equipment Fees

You will be billed for any gear that has been rented or purchased from NOLS after your course ends. The bill will be mailed to your home address approximately 2-4 weeks post-course. Additional charges will be added for any equipment that is lost or damaged. Please note that prices are subject to change without notice.

Storage

Storage space is limited at NOLS Southwest. Please keep that in mind when thinking about the excess luggage that will not go into the backcountry with you. There will be space for you to store any valuables in a locked safe.



Must Bring

The following items are not available for rent or purchase upon arriving at NOLS Southwest. Please plan to bring these items with you from home for your course.

| Upper Body Layers (Required) | | |
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| <p>NOLS uses a layering system where different combinations of clothing are worn to achieve optimum body temperature control. The upper body garments listed here are either synthetic garments which retain their insulating properties even when wet, or nylon or Gore-Tex® layers which help prevent heat loss by repelling wind, rain, and snow. You will need three insulating layers plus a rain layer. All must fit comfortably over each other so they can all be worn at the same time, if necessary. One of these layers must be a synthetic-filled (puffy) jacket with a zipper or a heavy fleece jacket made of Polartec® 300 or equivalent.</p> | | |
| Equipment Item | Quantity | Comments |
| Primary Insulating Layer (Mid-Weight Top) | 1 | 1 mid-weight long underwear top made of wool, polypropylene, or Capilene®. |
| Secondary Insulating Layer (Expedition Weight Top) | 1 | Polyester fleece pullover/expedition weight top of Polartec® 100 or 200, or a wool sweater. DO NOT bring an expensive "favorite" sweater; this item will receive extensive wear. Do not bring a cotton sweatshirt. |
| T-Shirt | 1 | 1 synthetic shirt for hiking. We highly recommend polyester or Capilene® for hiking because it dries much more quickly than cotton and can be incorporated into a layering system. Also, consider an old polyester button up dress shirt for a hiking shirt, inexpensive at a thrift store and provides great sun protection! |
| Sports Bra | 1 | Women should bring a synthetic sports bra. |
| Rain Jacket | 1 | Bring a lightweight waterproof, breathable rain jacket. GoLite, Outdoor Research, Marmot, Mont-Bell, and Patagonia make great lightweight options. |

Our advice? **Despite its reputation, the desert can get below freezing, especially at night.** Bring the puffy jackets and other layers you think might work. We'll advise you on the best combination for the current weather conditions.

| Lower Body Clothing (Required) | | |
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| <p>You will need at least 1 synthetic insulating layer, plus a wind layer. All must fit comfortably over each other so that they can be worn at the same time.</p> | | |
| Equipment | Quantity | Comments |
| Primary Insulating Layer (Mid-Weight bottoms) | 1 | Lightweight synthetic (under 6 oz.) long underwear bottoms such as the Patagonia Capilene 1 or 2 bottom. Wool and silk are good alternatives. Cotton and cotton blends are not acceptable. |
| Nylon Shorts | 1 | Loose fitting and quick drying nylon athletic or river shorts. |

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| Underwear | 1 pair | Silk, synthetic, or none. Go with what's comfortable. |
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| Miscellaneous Items (Required) | | |
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| Equipment | Quantity | Comments |
| Sunglasses | 1 pair | Lenses should block 100% ultraviolet and 95% infrared light. |
| Headlamp | 1 | Durable and lightweight LED headlamp. Make sure to put fresh batteries in it before you head into the backcountry. |
| Watch | 1 | A watch with an alarm is a necessary item. |
| Toilet Articles | 1 of each | You will want to bring a travel size toothbrush and toothpaste to bring into the backcountry with you. Please bring a comb, brush, skin lotion, tampons, etc. for your time in town. We will provide a towel for you to shower with after your course ends. |
| Town Clothes | 2 sets | Bring two sets of comfortable clothing to travel in on the way to NOLS Southwest — jeans, shorts, t-shirt, sweatshirt, etc. Please avoid bringing excess clothing, as storage space at NOLS is limited. |

Our advice? Keep the toiletries to small sizes. We work to keep our pack weight as low as possible.

| Optional Items | | |
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| Equipment | Quantity | Comments |
| Liner Socks | 1 pair | Lightweight wool, polypropylene, or Capilene® "wick dry" socks. Bring these if you like to use a liner sock/wool sock combination in your hiking boots. |
| Secondary Insulating Layer (Fleece Expedition-Weight Pants or Synthetic Puffy Pants) | 1 pair | If you typically get cold at night, you may want to bring a second insulating bottom layer. Synthetic puffy insulation, Polartec® 200, or an equivalent works well. Side zippers (full length or knee high) make it easier to put pants on over your hiking boots. |
| Pocket Knife | 1 | One small, lightweight, knife is sufficient for use in your backcountry kitchen. Simple Swiss Army knives are best. |
| Water Treatment | 1 | NOLS supplies Aqua Mira for backcountry water purification. Aqua Mira is a chlorine dioxide based treatment that is iodine and chlorine free. However, if you have sensitivity to this treatment you may need to bring your own water filter such as the PUR Scout or Hiker, or the Sweetwater Guardian. |
| Camera | 1 | Lightweight, 35 mm compact cameras are sufficient; bring a lightweight protective case. Avoid heavy lenses and elaborate set-ups. |
| Backpacker's Camp Chair | 1 | Crazy Creek or one with Therm-A-Rest fitting. May mean carrying a little extra weight, but most students and instructors consider it a worthwhile investment. |

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| Prescription Glasses and Contact Lenses | 1 pair | Bring a spare pair of glasses or lenses. Contact lens wearers should also bring a pair of glasses as backup. Prescription sunglasses are nice to have. |
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| Footwear (Required) | | |
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| Equipment | Quantity | Comments |
| Hiking Boots | 1 pair | Sturdy medium weight backpacking boots with good ankle support and proper fit are critical for hiking on uneven terrain with 40 – 50 lb. expedition packs. See the list of recommended boots at the end of this document. |
| Socks | 2-3 pairs | 2-3 pair. Socks must be heavy ragg wool or heavy wool/synthetic blend. Cotton/wool blend socks are not appropriate. |
| Camp Shoes | 1 pair | Lightweight running, tennis or cross-training shoes, in good condition, to wear around camp. Open-toed "river" or "mountain" sandals are not acceptable for the backcountry. |

Your boots will be a critical piece of gear. If they're not sturdy, don't provide enough support, or don't fit properly with at least a wool sock, we won't let you use them. Call with questions!

Purchase ONLY

The following items are available from NOLS for PURCHASE ONLY. If you already own any of these items, we encourage you to bring them from home. You will be billed for any gear that has been purchased from NOLS after your course ends. The bill will be mailed to your home address approximately 2-4 weeks post-course.

| Head, Neck, & Hands (Required) | | | | |
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| Equipment | Rental Price | Purchase Price | Quantity | Comments |
| Sun Hat, Baseball Cap, or Visor | | \$20 | 1 | A baseball hat, sun hat, or visor to protect face and ears from the sun. We stock NOLS Southwest baseball caps and visors. |
| Wool/Fleece Hat | | \$15-\$20 | 1 | A warm hat made of wool or fleece. |
| Lightweight Gloves | | \$8-\$5 | 1 pair | Ragg wool or fleece are acceptable. |

| Miscellaneous Items (Required) | | | | |
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| Equipment | Rental Price | Purchase Price | Quantity | Comments |
| Insulated Mug | | \$6-\$9 | 1 | Lightweight 12 to 20 oz. insulated mugs with lids are preferred. |
| Bowl | | \$3-\$8 | 1 | A lightweight bowl with a snap-on or screw-on lid. Tupperware bowls work well. |

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| Spoon | | \$2 | 1 | Lexan spoons are light, durable and popular. |
| Water Bottles | | \$7-\$10 | 2 | Wide mouth quart- or liter-size plastic bottles. You will need a total capacity of at least 2 liters. |
| Lip Balm | | \$3 | 1 | Stick, cream, or tube type moisturizing balm with sun protection factor SPF 15 or greater. |
| Sunscreen | | \$3 | 1 | An small 3- to 8-ounce tube with sun protection factor SPF 15 or greater. |
| Bandanas | | \$3-\$9 | 1 or 2 | |
| Sunglasses Retainers | | \$6 | 1 | Chums® or Croakies® for keeping track of your glasses or sunglasses. |
| Disposable Lighter | | \$1.50 | 1 | Used for lighting your camp stove. |
| Notepad and Pencil/Pen | | \$4-\$10/\$0.5 | 1/1 | A small, lightweight pad is necessary for taking notes during classes. |
| Plastic Trash Bags | | \$0.75-\$1.00 | 1 or 2 | 1-2 heavy-duty trash compactor bags (33 gallon) to help waterproof your sleeping bag stuff sack and backpack. We sell them as singles so you don't need to buy a huge box. |

Rental ONLY

The following items will be available for RENTAL ONLY from NOLS Southwest. You will be billed for any gear that has been rented from NOLS after your course ends. The bill will be mailed to your home address approximately 2-4 weeks post-course.

| Upper Body Layers (Required) | | | | |
|--|--------------|----------------|----------|--|
| Equipment | Rental Price | Purchase Price | Quantity | Comments |
| Top Insulating Layer (Synthetic "puffy" Jacket) | \$8 | | 1 | Lighter weight and warmer than comparable fleece jackets! A warm synthetic filled puffy jacket is recommended for people who get cold easily. We recommend and carry synthetic jackets. Down can be used, but requires extra care in wet conditions. |

| Lower Body Layers (Required) | | | | |
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| Equipment | Rental Price | Purchase Price | Quantity | Comments |
| Wind Pants | \$8 | | 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 boots. Lightweight running pants are not durable enough. 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. |

| Packs (Required) | | | | |
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| Equipment | Rental Price | Purchase Price | Quantity | Comments |
| Backpack | \$15 | | 1 | <p>Recommended packs: Osprey Aether 85, NOLS Deuter pack (5 lbs), or other packs of similar quality and capacity.</p> <p>The backpack itself should weigh no more than 4-6 lbs. and should at least have 5,000 cubic inches of space.</p> <p>If you do not already own a backpack, we recommend you rent one from us.</p> |

| Sleeping Gear (Required) | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------|---|
| Equipment | Rental Price | Purchase Price | Quantity | Comments |
| Sleeping Bag | \$20 | | 1 | Despite popular belief, it gets very cold in the Southwest at night. We recommend synthetic-filled bags (Quallofil®, Hollofil®, Polarguard®, etc.). These bags are very durable and perform well in the variety of conditions we encounter. A bag with a 5° - 25° F temperature rating would be best for your September course. Bags lose loft and subsequent warmth over the years (at least 10° of warmth over the course of a year). We rent 0° - 15° Mountain Hardwear Lamina bags. Down bags are lighter and have less bulk while still providing excellent warmth. They do require more care in the field but are acceptable for your course. |
| Compression Sleeping Bag Stuff Sack | \$3 | | 1 | Compression stuff sacks are recommended for use with internal frame packs. These bags have straps attached to them for compressing sleeping bags while packing. |

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| Sleeping Pad Stuff Sack | \$1 | | 1 | If you are planning to rent a foam pad from us, then you will need to rent a stuff sack also. This helps make it easier to pack and cuts down on wear and tear in the desert terrain. |
| Sleeping Pad | \$3 | | 1 | A 3/4-length closed cell foam or “self inflating” pad to insulate and pad between the ground and your sleeping bag. Therm-A-Rest® type pads are acceptable if you bring a patch repair kit. NOLS does not rent self- inflating pads, only foam pads. |
| Ground Cloth | \$2 | | 1 | A nylon sheet to go between your sleeping pad and the ground as your tents will not have floors. |

Recommended Boots

Please note that NOLS Southwest does not rent or sell hiking boots. Medium-weight, off-trail backpacking/light mountaineering boots work best. This type of boot is constructed with a full grain leather upper and typically has a Vibram® rubber sole. Some models utilize an injection molded, composite rubber sole with a randed welt to bond the leather upper to the sole. Both types of sole are acceptable. These boots are designed for extended backpacking, provide good support for off-trail hiking with heavy packs, and usually require less break-in time than heavyweight mountaineering boots. You pack will likely weight between 40 – 50 lbs. for this trip.

The following list 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 listed here provided the boot that you bring is a good quality leather model designed for extended backpacking expeditions with 40-50 lb. packs.

EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE BOOTS*

- Asolo:** TPS 520 GV, TPS 535
- Lowa:** Tibet GTX, Banff, Baffin Pro
- La Sportiva:** Thunder II GTX, Cypress GTX
- Montrail:** Feather Peak GTX
- Scarpa:** Barun GTX, Mustang GTX
- Vasque:** Wasatch GTX, Summit GTX

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

Group Equipment

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.

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| • Tents & Shelters | • Maps & Compass | • GPS Units |
| • Camp Stoves | • Reference Books | • Binoculars |
| • Fuel and Fuel Bottles | • First Aid Kits | • Equipment Repair Kits |
| • Trowels | • Cooking Gear | • Water Purification |