

Blue Ridge Expedition Packing List

WELCOME to Green River Preserve Expeditions! We look forward to having you with us this summer in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina.

One of the most fun aspects of a Green River Preserve Expedition is assembling your gear and clothing. This list will help you decide what to bring with you on your Expedition. We recommend using any of these items you might already own or borrowing from a family member. Some of the bigger items like a backpack and sleeping pad can be rented from GRP for a small fee. Others you will have to purchase. Your local outdoor shop or REI are great places to start. We also have found success with sale items on the following websites: Sierra Trading Post, Campmor, and The Clymb. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email.

| Upper Body Clothing | | | |
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| <p>We layer our clothing, combining different garments to achieve optimum insulation and protection from wind and rain. The upper garments listed here are either synthetic or wool, which insulate when wet, or nylon or GoreTex® which help prevent heat loss by cutting wind, rain. You will need 3-4 insulating layers, plus a wind and a rain layer. All must fit comfortably over one another so they may be worn simultaneously. With the exception of your t-shirt, cotton and cotton blends are unacceptable as cotton offers poor insulation when wet.</p> | | | |
| Equipment | Quantity | Comments | Check List |
| Base Layer (Long Underwear Top) | 1 | Mid-weight underwear top made of wool, polypropylene, or Capilene®. Zip turtleneck styles are a good choice for comfort and the Thermo regulation. | |
| Long sleeve shirts | 2 | One may be cotton the other a synthetic quick drying material. The optional bug shirt below can count as one of these. | |
| Fleece Jacket or pullover | 1 | Mid-weight to heavyweight fleece that fits comfortably over your other insulating layers and under your outer shell. | |
| Fleece Vest (Optional) | 1 | A polyester fleece vest of Polartec® 200 or a synthetic filled vest. This is an additional layer if you tend to be cold. It should not be substituted for any of your 3 insulating layers. | |
| Bug/Sun shirt (Optional) | 1 | A lightweight, breathable, durable nylon, combined with mesh fabric. A GRP fishing shirt works well. | |
| Rain Parka | 1 | Sturdy, roomy waterproof jacket with a hood. Both coated nylon and breathable fabrics such as Gore-Tex® are acceptable. Consider the balance between a lightweight jacket, that still seems durable, to withstand abrasion. "3-ply" fabric is suggested. | |

Upper Body Clothing (Continued)

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| Short Sleeve Shirt | 5 | A cotton or lightweight polyester/Capilene T-shirt. A combination of both cotton t-shirts and capilene is highly suggested. Capilene will be perfect for hiking and cotton will be nice for "in camp" time. | |
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Lower Body Clothing

| Equipment | Quantity | Comments | Check List |
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| Base Layer (Long Underwear Bottoms) | 1 | Mid-weight long underwear made of wool, polypropylene, or Capilene®. | |
| Long Pants | 2 | One of which is nylon or a quick drying synthetic material. These are recommended for protection from bugs and dense vegetation. | |
| Rain Pants | 1 | Both coated nylon and breathable fabrics such as Gore-Tex® are acceptable. | |
| Shorts | 5 | Light hiking shorts. Pockets are nice to have. 2 pairs should be quick dry material (i.e. nylon). | |

Miscellaneous Clothing

| Equipment | Quantity | Comments | Check List |
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| Swim Suit | 1 | Ladies, we recommend a one piece or tankini. Life vests can chafe bare skin. | |
| Underwear | 8-10 | Synthetic material is best. | |
| Winter hat/beanie | 1 | Yes- it can get cold in the Blue Ridge Mountains any month of the year and you will be happy you have it! | |
| Rain Hat (Optional) | 1 | It can rain a lot and some find they prefer a rain hat to a hood | |

| Footwear | | | |
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| Equipment | Quantity | Comments | Check List |
| Hiking Boots (Good condition and broken in) | 1 pair | A quality pair will last a long time and is worth the investment. You will wear these for the majority of your trip and will want to be comfortable. Consider a boot that will support your ankles and feet as well as a loaded pack and will handle crossing rivers, rough terrain, and more. If you are questioning if your boots will last, you should probably get a new pair. It is very sad to have the backpacking portion of an expedition affected by a pair of hiking boots falling apart. | |
| Tennis shoes or running shoes | 1 pair | These can be old and not in top condition, but think safety, the sole should not be falling off. | |
| Sandels/water shoes | 1 pair | Chaco, Keen and Tevas without Velcro are great. Velcro is not reliable when wet. These are great for paddling days. Shoes are required in boats. | |
| Socks | 8 | 5 synthetic pairs of hiking socks and 3 pairs of cotton socks | |
| Sock Liner (Optional) | 2 | Thin synthetic socks to be worn under hiking socks. This is recommended for those prone to blisters. | |
| Gaiters (Optional) | 1 pair | Gaiters provided good leg protection while bushwacking and help avoid grit getting into your boots (thus help ward off blisters). Outdoor Research makes gaiters. | |

| Sleeping Gear | | | |
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| Equipment | Quantity | Comments | Check List |
| Sleeping bag | 1 | Rated to 40 degrees or lower. Due to our wet/humid environment we recommend synthetic filled bags over down or feather bags. | |
| Sleeping pad | 1 | Inflatable pads are more comfortable but are prone to puncture. If bringing an inflatable sleeping pad a repair kit should also be brought. (Example: Therma-rest) You may also rent one from GRP for \$10. | |
| Ground Sheet (Optional) | 1 | Participants in the past have found a ground sheet is useful for emptying their backpack contents onto and helping them organize. An | |

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| | | affordable ground sheet is a shower liner. | |
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| Sleeping bag stuff sack | 1 | A compression stuff sack makes your sleeping smaller to pack (example: OR Ultralight Compression Sack) A no-compression stuff sack is fine too and weighs less (example: Granite Gear Air Compressor Stuff Sack). | |

| Packs & Bags | | | |
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| Equipment | Quantity | Comments | Check List |
| Backpack | 1 | At least 4,000 cubic inches. Internal or external frame is fine. You can rent an External frame pack from GRP for \$25. | |
| Day pack | 1 | A book bag sized backpack for day hikes smaller excursions. | |
| Small Stuff Sacks Or Zip lock bags | Several | Used to organize items in your pack. (example: Outdoor Research Ultralight Stuff Sack). | |
| Waterproof Bag Liners | 2-3 | Durable, sturdy, plastic trash compactor bags. These can be found in most grocery stores. | |

| Miscellaneous Items | | | |
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| Equipment | Quantity | Comments | Check List |
| Sun Screen | 1 | Small pocket size tube. Unscented | |
| Towel | 2 | One should be a quick dry pack towel. | |
| Bug Spray | 1 | Non-Aerosol non-Deet. Bug Off is a example. | |
| Pocket knife | 1 | 2.5 to 3.5 inch, non-serrated, Locking Blade NO Swiss Army Knives | |
| Headlamp WITH new batteries and an extra set | 1 | A flashlight is OK in addition to this but headlamp is necessary. | |
| Mess Kit | 1 | A cup, bowl, and spoon | |
| Water bottle | 2 -3 | 32 ounce bottles. Nalgene, Kleen Canteen, and Camelback are some brands. A bladder can serve as one of these bottles, but not both. | |
| Plastic whistle | 1 | This is a safety measure we take and we | |

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| | | encourage all participants going in the backcountry to have a whistle. | |
| Bandana | 2 | These are found to serve many purposes | |
| Camera (Optional) | 1 | | |
| Journal, and reading book (Optional) | 1 | You will have down time each day, and Expeditioners are often thankful they have one or both of these items. | |
| Camp Chair (Optional) | 1 | Folks are glad when they have these. They can be purchased at the camp store Crazy Creek is one brand. | |
| Toilet Articles | | Toothbrush, toothpaste, comb/brush, moisturizer, prescription meds, tampons. Sample sizes of 2 oz are preferable. No deodorant or excessive items. | |