

Camp Packing List, Built by Artificial Intelligence

Just for fun, we asked ChatGPT to make us a camping pack list!

Request/AI Prompt: Create a packing list for a family of four traveling by car to a state park in North Texas in March.

The result: Scouting America experts approve of what AI generated — with small revisions. See those below, and feel free to use this list for your next campout. [Read this article](#) for more details.

- **Shelter and sleeping**
 - Tent with stakes and guy lines
 - Groundsheet or footprint
 - Sleeping bags rated to about 40 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Sleeping pads or air mattresses
 - Pillows from home
 - Extra blanket for kids or around the fire
- **Camp kitchen**
 - Cooler with ice packs
 - Easy meals already prepared
 - Snacks you don't mind getting dusty
 - Refillable water bottles
 - Camp stove or grill
 - Fuel
 - Lighter or matches
 - Cookware (pan, pot)
 - Cutting board and knife
 - Cooking utensils
 - Plates, bowls, cups, cutlery
 - Paper towels
 - Dish sponge and small bottle of soap
 - Trash bags and zip-top bags
- **Camp comfort**
 - Camp chairs
 - Picnic blanket or ground mat
 - Headlamps or flashlights (one per adult, at least)
 - Lantern for the table
 - Portable phone charger
 - Printed reservation, map (if cell service is bad)
- **Weather and environment**
 - Sunscreen
 - Bug spray
 - Lip balm and lotion
- **Clothing (per person)**
 - Two daytime outfits
 - Warm layer (fleece or hoodie)
 - Puffy jacket or insulated vest for evenings
 - Rain jacket or poncho
 - Pajamas, including one warm set
 - Underwear and socks (extra pair)
 - Sturdy shoes or sneakers
 - Sandals or easy camp shoes
 - Hat and sunglasses
- **Kid-specific sanity savers**
 - One comfort item each (stuffed animal or blanket)
 - Weather-appropriate sleepwear
 - Simple outdoor toys (ball, flying disc, bubbles)
 - One quiet activity each (books, cards, coloring)
- **Toiletries and health**
 - Toothbrushes and toothpaste
 - Small towel, baby wipes or body wipes
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Basic first-aid kit
 - Any daily medications
 - Tissues
- **Food extras**
 - Coffee setup you actually like
 - Breakfast you can make half asleep
 - Marshmallows, chocolate, graham crackers
 - Extra snacks for kids between meals
- **Optional but nice**
 - Binoculars for bird watching
 - Camera
 - Hammock
 - Extra tarp (for shade, wind block, rain cover)

The Experts Weigh In

Russ and Rose Hunsaker, co-chairs of Scouting America's Camping and Trekking Committee, say the AI-generated list is good. They offer one safety concern related to having a blanket around the campfire. They would add the following:

Something for washing dishes | Compass | Map | Whistle | Garbage bags

Review the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) for additional safety guidance.