

What to pack for the Turkey Shoot?

Great question! The simple answer is— it depends on the weather. It is November, in Ohio, in the throes of global warming. You tell me what the weather is going to be like. Seriously, you have to watch the weather and determine what the weather is going to be like for the weekend. Channel 80 on my television gives 5 day forecasts in select cities around Ohio, and Lancaster seems to be the closest city to the farm where we camp for the Turkey Shoot. Check the internet's weather channel for a 7 day forecast, and type in Jackson, Ohio (the one in Jackson County). But, back to the question of what to pack.... At a minimum, bring the following (this is based on the likelihood that the weekend will be in the 40's or 50's during the day, and 20's and 30's at night.):

Clothing:

- your Scout uniform shirt
- 5 pairs of wool or wool/blend socks (for just 3 days? YES!)
- Boots- waterproof them!
- NO TENNIS SHOES!!! unless you just can't live without them AND you have packed your boots and will only WEAR the tennis shoes if your boots are wet, on the inside. A second pair of boots, or good hiking shoes, is better than tennis shoes.
- 2 pair of regular underwear
- 1 pair of long john underwear
- 1 or 2 sweatshirts
- 2 or 3 tee shirts
- a long sleeve shirt and a short sleeve shirt (or one or the other if you are sure you know what the temperature is going to be)
- at least 2 pairs of LONG PANTS, I repeat, LONG PANTS- no thin sweat pants! Blue jeans are okay, because if it happens to be warm, cotton jeans allow the air in, whereas sweat pants don't— that's why they call them sweat pants. If it is going to be cold, wool pants are best.
- a coat- the style is your choice— it is best to wear layers if it is cold, such as a tee shirt, sweatshirt, jacket or coat. Please do not wear just a tee shirt and a winter coat if it is in the 30's or 40's (or less) during the day— you will be much more comfortable in layered clothing when it is cold.
- a hat— a baseball cap is okay if it is not cold, but you must have a wool stocking hat (to cover your ears) if it is cold, and it will get cold at night— a stocking hat on your head is essential at night time in order to retain body heat, regardless of how warm your sleeping bag is.
- gloves— essential! You can take them off when it is your turn to shoot, but you'll want them on at other times.
- a rain poncho or jacket.

Sleeping bag:

- a warm one, in case it is cold. Or, you can put a bed sheet and/or a fleece blanket in a not-so-warm sleeping bag.

Tent:

- remember you need to buddy-up in a tent with someone. Don't forget a ground tarp under the tent.

The above items are not inclusive; you need to check your Scout handbook for lists of other things you will need to bring, such as your mess kit, toiletry items, etc.

LASTLY, PLEASE PACK YOUR FLASHLIGHT IN YOUR COAT OR PANTS POCKET DURING THE BUS RIDE TO THE CAMPSITE— IT WILL BE DARK WHEN YOU GET THERE, AND YOU MIGHT NEED IT IN ORDER TO GET YOUR PATROL GEAR, AND THEN YOUR TENT AND PERSONAL GEAR, SET UP. SO MAKE SURE IT IS WITH YOU WHEN YOU GET THERE.