

Winter To-Bring List

We are so happy you will be joining us this winter! While we have an indoor space to use if needed, please be aware that we will be outside for the majority of our time together. It is therefore essential that each child comes prepared with the appropriate clothing and food to have a fun day. If your child arrives at program without the proper gear, our staff may decide it is not safe for them to stay and they will be sent home (no refund will be issued).

What to bring?

- Weather appropriate **clothing**. Please dress in **non-cotton (fleece, silk, synthetic, wool) layers** that can be added and removed. A **weatherproof jacket** that is large enough to fit over multiple layers of clothing and blocks wind and rain (if temperatures are above freezing) or snow (if it is below freezing). **Water resistant or waterproof pants are also required**. If the weather is above freezing, **rain gear** with layers underneath is best. For more information about dressing for winter, read [Dressing Young Children for Winter Fun](#) and see our [Weather Dressing Chart](#).
- **Two pairs of thick, non-cotton socks**, one to be worn and another to go in backpack.
- **Insulated footwear**. Thick neoprene boots (like Muck boots or Bogs—look for the thickest they offer) are both warm and waterproof and can be worn in all kinds of winter weather. Snow boots are only appropriate if the ground is not too wet.
- **Hat, waterproof mittens/gloves and neck warmer** (scarf or balaclava). We encourage children to wear mittens as they are much warmer than gloves.
- Pack **extra, dry layers, mittens/gloves and socks** in a plastic bag in backpack.
- **Snack and lunch*** in an easy to carry container (like Tupperware or a plastic bag) that can fit in a backpack. On cold days, calorie-rich, warm food that your child will be excited to eat is best. While heating food on a camp fire may be an option, please do not pack food that would rely on a fire to be cooked.
- **Water bottle** that can hold about 1 liter/32 oz. If using an insulated bottle, please fill with warm, not hot, water.
- A **non-breakable hot cup** for drinking wild tea.
- A **backpack** to hold your child's gear that fits well and is easy to carry. Backpacks with zippers and padded straps are best.

Optional Items

- Field Guides
- Primitive crafts or tools
- Bandanas

If possible, please label all items with your child's name.

Please note that it is not necessary to purchase any of the items above as new. Check out local thrift stores or ask family and friends for hand-me-downs. If you are looking for new gear, below is a list of some of our favorite brands, some of which are available locally (Ithaca, NY).

For waterproof gear- [L.L Bean](#) , [Puddlegear](#) , [Biddle & Bop](#), [Polarn O. Pyret](#)

For winter boots- [The Original Muck Boot Company](#) (can be found at Agway), [Bogs](#) (sold at Fontanas), [Kamik](#) , [L.L. Bean](#)

For other gear- [REI](#), [L.L. Bean](#)

What NOT to bring?

- No electronic devices or potentially hazardous objects (knives, for example) without checking in with an instructor.
- Do not bring gum. Gum is a choking hazard in such an active program, and it creates litter.
- Cell phones are not recommended. If you must send your child with a cell phone, it must stay in the participant's bag out of sight with the ringer turned off during the program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at **607-272-2292**. We'll be happy to talk with you!

The Primitive Pursuits Team