

Senior Yukon Trip 2020 Gear Notes and Advice



The weather in the Yukon at this time of year is cold (plan for lows around 0 degrees Fahrenheit), so it is imperative that equipment is adequate, and that students are prepared for whatever weather comes our way. With the proper equipment, these conditions can be enjoyable and safe. With improper equipment, they can be uncomfortable and possibly hazardous. Whitehorse weather is usually like a cold day of skiing, with nighttime temps below zero, while the average high (in late March) is in the low 30's. Bottom line: plan to be outside and active in temperatures at 0 degrees Fahrenheit.

General Advice:

- Try to borrow before you buy. A gear survey will be sent out later if you need to borrow gear from SAAS. (We have sleeping bags, sleeping pads and large dry bags in limited number we can lend out).
- Do not use cotton clothing. Use multiple layers of down, polypropylene, fleece or wool. Dress like you would for a very cold day of skiing.
- Have adequate insulation for head, hands, and feet, with EXTRAS- hats, gloves, and socks get lost and damaged frequently.
- Students should have all of their gear by the pre-trip gear check on Monday, March 16th.
- Students can bring a small amount of personal clothing for ferry, plane, etc. For Extra Clothing – Limit cotton as much as possible. Bring 1 T-shirt and a pair of jeans for the plane, ferry.

Descriptions of Gear Students MUST Have:

The list below includes all required gear and some links with **EXAMPLES** of what you should be looking for.

- **Drybag, with the pack straps.** Size: you'll need around 6500 cubic inches (translates to a little over 100 liters). This is your luggage for the trip. Students can also bring the dry-bag duffle sack as well (full zipper). [DRYBAG OPTION LINK](#) (115 liters)
- **0-degree Sleeping bag w/ stuff sack**—Your bag should be a warm, three/four season bag, and your sleeping bag should have a compression stuff sack to fit in a pack. Need a bag rated to 0

degrees or lower. It can be down or synthetic, but not cotton. Remember, older sleeping bags aren't as warm as their rating – they lose insulation over time.

SLEEPING BAG OPTIONS: [SYNTHETIC](#) [DOWN](#)

- **Sleeping pad** – [ensolite](#) or [Thermarest](#)
- **Boots** – Snow boots (Sorel, or a similar insulated boot). Boots need to be waterproof and insulated. A removable liner is preferable. BOOT OPTION LINKS: [MENS](#) [WOMENS](#)
- **Socks** – 4+ pairs of heavy wool socks – NO COTTON. [SOCK OPTION](#)
- **Long Underwear Top/Pants** – Synthetic (usually some variety of Polypropylene) tops and bottoms. Two layers for the top. Two layers for the bottom. Look for mid to heavyweight. These are almost always available in less expensive “non-brand” versions. OPTIONS: [MENS](#) [WOMENS](#)
- **Fleece Jacket/pants or wool sweater/pants** – One layer for the top and bottom that fits over the long underwear that is wool or fleece. You could pair a lighter, less expensive fleece jacket with a heavier wool sweater. For the pants, army surplus wool pants are an excellent and far less expensive option.
FLEECE JACKET OPTIONS: [MENS](#) [WOMENS](#)
FLEECE PANTS OPTIONS: [MENS](#) [WOMENS](#)
- **Warm Jacket** – Preferably down, the warmest option that can be easily packed and compressed. The puffier the better. WARM JACKET OPTIONS: [MENS](#) [WOMENS](#)
- **Rain and Windgear** – You absolutely must have waterproof raingear, both jacket, and pants. Gore-Tex is fine but expensive; coated nylon is also great. **Ski Bibs are also OK but must be waterproof.**
- **Hat** – Wool, polypro or pile, and have 2 or more (one lightweight and one extra warm). A scarf is a good option as well. [HAT OPTION LINK](#)
- **Mittens or Gloves** – Make sure **they are windproof**, if not water-resistant, and have multiple pairs. Ideally, bring 2 pairs. Mittens are typically warmer, but nice to have gloves as well.
- **Personal First Aid Kit** – We take care of major medical emergencies, but students need to provide all personal medications, including backup medications, cold/ flu/ Ibuprofen/ headache meds, Tums, and minor first-aid items like bandaids, and a blister kit. Include **personal hand sanitizer in your first aid kit!** Pre-made kits are available at outdoor stores. [FIRST AID KIT OPTION](#)

- **Daypack** – to use on day hikes, snowshoeing, dog sledding, etc. Students usually already have one for school that will suffice.
- **Emergency Blanket** - not the \$2 foil “blanket in a box.” You need the mini-tarp version, red or blue on one side and silver on the other, costs about \$15. [EMERGENCY BLANKET LINK](#)
- Wristwatch (old fashioned personal timekeeping device) suitable for outdoor activities
- Sunglasses/sunscreen
- Personal Toiletries
- Insulated cup with a cover
- 2 one-liter water bottles
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Lighter – DO NOT PUT IN YOUR PLANE CARRY-ON

Last Advice – practice packing all of this in your dry-bag and Daypack. You need to fit everything in these two bags. Label Everything multiple times! There will be over 100 people with very similar looking gear, in a very confined space. If your stuff isn’t well-marked, you’ll lose it!

Sources for gear: [REI](#), [Sierra Trading Post](#), [Wonderland Gear Exchange](#), [Navy Surplus](#), [Ascent Outdoors](#), [2nd Base](#), [Goodwill](#), [Value Village](#).

Senior Yukon Packing Checklist (covering essential items)

- Drybag, with the pack straps.** 6500CC or 100+L
- 0 Degree Sleeping bag w/ stuff sack**– Need a bag rated to 0 degrees or lower. Down or Synthetic
- Sleeping pad** – ensolite or thermarest
- Boots** – Snow boots - fully waterproof and insulated
- (4) Socks** – 4 pairs of heavy wool socks – NO COTTON.
- (2) Long Underwear Tops (Synthetic or Wool)** – Two layers for the top.
- (2) Long Underwear Pants (Synthetic or Wool)** – Two layers for the bottom
- Fleece or Wool Jacket** - fits over long underwear (down jacket could replace)
- Fleece or Wool Pants** - fits over long underwear
- Warm Jacket** – Preferably down, warmest option that can be easily packed and compressed.
- Rain and Windproof Pants** - gortex, or less expensive nylon
- Rain and Windproof Jacket** – gortex, or less expensive nylon
- (2) Hats** – Wool, polypro or pile, and have 2 or more. A scarf is a good option as well.
- Mittens or Gloves** - extra liners helpful
- Personal First Aid Kit** – Including medications (prescribed / over the counter), and hand sanitizer
- Daypack** – school bag will suffice most likely
- Emergency Blanket** - not the \$2 “blanket in a box.” You need the mini-tarp version, red or blue on one side and silver on the other, costs about \$15.
- Sunglasses/sunscreen**
- Watch (old fashioned personal timekeeping device) suitable for outdoor activities**
- Personal Toiletries**
- Insulated cup with a cover** – a must
- (2) one-liter water bottles (Nalgene)**
- Flashlight or headlamp**
- Lighter** – DO NOT PUT IN YOUR PLANE CARRY-ON

Additionally, you will pack clothes for the ferry, underwear, medications, journal, camera, etc. This is not part of our required gear checklist. If you have questions about other items to bring, contact Stacie Cone.