



# Fall Campout Advice for Pack 421 First Timers

## First time camping with the Pack? Here are some helpful tips:

1. Consult the “Pack 421 Cub Camping & Hiking Checklist” for a list of what to bring and BSA rules & policies. Do not bring more than you need - pack as light as possible.
2. **Make this an EASY campout for you in the “kitchen”.** Cooking is the most time consuming aspect of camping and you want to be able to spend time with your scout on this first campout. For dinner Friday, bring a ready to eat meal from home or the road (fried chicken & prepared side dishes; sub sandwiches & chips, etc.). This way you won’t have to cook while setting up your campsite when you arrive. For Saturday’s cooking, get together with another family (or your entire den) and cook together - share stoves as not everyone needs to bring one. Precook messy items such as bacon or sausage at home so all they need is reheating for breakfast Saturday; scramble the raw eggs at home and transport in a plastic container also!! Make sandwiches or hot dogs for lunch. Prepare foil packet dinners (search the internet for recipes and instructions) before leaving home and freeze, then cook over coals in your firepit Saturday for dinner. Plan a cold breakfast Sunday (pastries, fruit, optional cereal) so you don’t have to cook while tearing down your campsite.
3. **Cooking “gear”** - do not feel compelled to purchase any kitchen supplies for this first campout. You can use the firepit and charcoal BBQ in your campsite - bring wood or charcoal. Keep it simple; use utensils you already have at home & disposable plates when possible. You WILL need a cooler & ice to store your food. Hint: clean and save your empty plastic juice & milk jugs for a few weeks before the campout and fill them with water and freeze to use in your cooler - this way you don’t end up with a cooler full of water and food swimming around in it - do the same for your “drinking” water bottles too.
4. **Tents** - if you are buying a tent, buy one 2-man tent plus another tent(s) for the rest of the family (if necessary). This way, your boy can use the 2-man tent to share either with his parent or another scout (see Youth Protection Policy) AND he will be able to use this 2-man tent when required to do so in Webelos/Boy Scouts. Multiple small tents are easier to set up, easier to transport & store, and cheaper than a single large “condominium” - check sale flyers weekly.
5. **Critter control** - you must keep your food in coolers and lock or place heavy objects on top as the raccoons will open a cooler (we have even had squirrels/mice UNZIP lunchboxes). Do not leave ANY food out on tables at any time.
6. **Realize that you are a beginner with the Pack and ask for help.** Ask if you can borrow something from a veteran scout family or the Pack - we have loaner equipment available. Tell your den leader you need something. Don’t expect everything to be perfect this first campout - just enjoy and know that every time you camp with the Pack, you will gain more experience and will one day join the ranks of the “Cadillac Campers” that you see in the older dens. That will be YOU & YOUR BOY someday - really, it will.