

Where to get Equipment for Camp

Camp equipment HAS changed a bit. Mostly we want the kids to enjoy the activities - such as backpacking, so they grow to love it. One of the biggest detriments to loving backpacking is ill fitting equipment! It is an investment, but most of our campers come year after year and use the equipment for years at camp and maybe on family outings. We do lend some equipment but we try to give first crack at that to families that cannot afford to purchase their own.

While I am not endorsing any particular gear or place to purchase it, these seem like good options combining value with good reviews online! I have seen some great things at Costco, Amazon, Campmor, and Walmart at excellent prices. If you do shop at Amazon, for camp equipment or anything else, please consider logging in at Amazon Smile and choosing Baltimore Yearly Meeting as your recipient and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to BYM!! You can do that here:

http://smile.amazon.com/ref=smi_ge_rl_rd_gw?_encoding=UTF8&ein=52-0856309

For equipment, one of the least expensive places to get it is online at Campmor.com. The smallest, cheapest **pack** they have is this one (**Outdoor Products Mantis Dragonfly External Frame Pack**) — this pack has a plastic frame, though so not sure how well it will hold up and that makes it less adjustable. Note that all of these packs below are for smaller campers. For larger campers you can get gear from the same companies and get larger sizes – the thing to look for is waist size and torso length, plus another indicator of pack size is cubic liters that it will hold. The Deuter Fox 30 below is 30 liters and would probably only fit the smallest 9-10 year old camper and not much gear.

http://www.campmor.com/outdoor/gear/Product___90387

Some other pack options that will probably last longer and cost a bit more are:

Deuter Kids Fox 30 and the Kids Fox 40 (difference is the size)

Alps Mountaineering Red Rock – I like this one the best for small size that can hold a lot and will grow with the camper for a few years at a better price than some other options. It has a sturdy frame that is adjustable and a nice padded hip belt.

Kelty Junior Tioga

You can search for these online – they have them at Amazon.com as well as other places.

Some **foam pad options for hiking out of camp:**

http://www.campmor.com/outdoor/gear/Product___41312

I also like this foam pad because it has straps included and is inexpensive – the Stansport Pack Lite:

http://www.amazon.com/Stansport-Pack-Lite-72X19X3-8-Inch-Blue/dp/B00069PFKK/ref=sr_1_2?s=sporting-goods&ie=UTF8&qid=1368479062&sr=1-2&keywords=stansport+pack+lite

http://www.walmart.com/catalog/product.do?product_id=9856753&findingMethod=rr

As for **bedding in camp** - one way to go is to get a queen size mattress topper at your favorite big discount store and fold in half to make a pretty comfortable bunk. You can get a nice folding guest/exercise mattress at Costco that folds into thirds (tri-fold guest mat) – it is covered and about 3 inches thick (\$53?). They also have a camp pad that is foam that is air assisted for \$35 that is a great deal.

<http://www.walmart.com/ip/5-Zone-2-Convuluted-Foam-Topper/15581041?findingMethod=Recommendation:wm:RecentlyViewedItems>

or you could go this route although eventually it will leak air:

<http://www.walmart.com/ip/Coleman-Self-Inflating-Camp-Pad-with-Attached-Pillow/20594105>

or this kind of camp air/foam pad in xl would be very comfortable for in camp use:

http://www.amazon.com/ALPS-Mountaineering-Comfort-Series-Air/dp/B000MNBL4/ref=sr_1_2?s=sporting-goods&ie=UTF8&qid=1368478388&sr=1-2&keywords=alps+mountaineering+air+pad

or an Everlast exercise mat that folds in half which I saw on amazon.com and which I bought for some sponsored campers and looks like a nice option.

You can also get a **sleeping bag** from discount big box store but do not get the slumber party bag - try and get one that is very compact and lightweight for hiking, mummy in shape and not rectangular:

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B001TR7QZA/ref=oh_details_o01_s01_i01?ie=UTF8&psc=1 This one is awesomely priced for size and weight! (look at price of left hand side zipper)

<http://www.walmart.com/ip/Everest-Mummy-5F-15C-Degree-Sleeping-Bag/2581360#Specifications>

<http://www.walmart.com/ip/Wenzel-Sante-Fe-33-x-84-Mummy-Bag-Cobalt-and-Orange/13228650#Specifications>

Campmor also has lots of sleeping bags – look for mummy, lightweight and one that will fit for several years – so maybe not getting the one that fits up to 4ft long unless you want to keep buying bags in the future.

Don't forget a small **flashlight** – led lasts best (you can get them for around \$5) and/or a headlamp – these are mighty convenient for hands free use on the trail and in camp:

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B001F0RCIC/ref=oh_details_o01_s01_i02?ie=UTF8&psc=1

Trunk for your belongings.

http://www.walmart.com/catalog/product.do?product_id=11014791&findingMethod=rr

I recently saw some large black plastic bins with yellow lids at Costco that looked like a nice option for storing belongings at camp.

For **dining ware** I would go with some flat packing silicon bowls and a spork, and a BPS free bottle by Nalgene or the like.

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00251IQ12/ref=oh_details_o01_s00_i02?ie=UTF8&psc=1

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00BUIWK36/ref=oh_details_o01_s00_i01?ie=UTF8&psc=1

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B001N7V1QG/ref=oh_details_o01_s01_i00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

I would buy things at Amazon or at Campmor, online, rather than in person. Most camping stores that you go to in person are outrageously expensive.

Do not forget to get a bottle of **permethrin** to spray on clothes and sleeping bag BEFORE your camper comes to camp – this is the MOST and perhaps only effective way to repel and kill deer ticks which spread Lyme Disease. Please read and follow directions for this product.

<http://www.amazon.com/Sawyer-Premium-Permethrin-Clothing-Repellent/dp/B007VCRX2S>

If you have questions about gear, what you could buy used and what you should get new, etc. please do not hesitate to contact me!

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