



Car camping means that everything and the kitchen sink *could* make the list—after all, it's the perfect synch between comfort and the outdoors. That said, the trick is to bring enough items that stand in for traditional home-bound amenities while still reinforcing the pleasures of being outdoors. To assure that, bring enough outdoor toys (soccer balls, footballs, Frisbees—the list is endless), never let anyone retreat to the mini-van DVD player, and, most important, take a page from the backpacker's philosophy: Leave No Trace; pack out what you pack in, keep the trash far away from the fires, and leave the place the way you found it. Not only is that the environmentally savvy thing to do, but it also bestows the right message to your young ones.

And when it comes to food—plan by meal based on your schedule, then aim for one- or two-pot meals like pancakes or stew, and be sure to pack enough fruit and other snack items to stave off hunger between meals.

## SHELTER AND SLEEPING

- Ground cloth
- Tent(s)
- Sleeping pads for everyone
- Portable chairs and stools
- Sleeping bag (rated to 20 to 50F)
- Pillows

## THE CAMP KITCHEN

- Stove (be sure to test it each time before you go)
- Stove fuel
- Charcoal and lighter fuel (if grilling)
- Firewood and kindling (if allowed)
- Matches/lighter
- Cooking pots and pans
- Extra water (to keep at your site)
- Utensil set (including spoons, knives, forks, plus cooking utensils, such as serving spoons, knives, spatulas)
- Can opener
- Mess kits for everyone (plates, cups, bowls)
- Cooler and ice
- Dish detergent
- Dish towels
- Sponge/scrapper
- Plastic basin (for washing dishes)
- Paper towels
- Tablecloth
- Trash bags
- Foil

- Ziploc bags
- Hot pads
- Citronella candle

## FOOD ITEMS

- Snacks
- Fruit
- Peanut butter and bread (very quick and handy if your kids like it)
- Butter/cooking oil
- Condiments (salt, pepper, multi-spice, and mustard/catsup when applicable)
- Beverages (juice boxes, milk)
- Coffee, tea, or hot chocolate
- Milk, sugar (if needed)
- Desserts
- Makings for s'mores (marshmallows, graham crackers, and chocolate)

## HANDY CAMPSITE TOOLS

- Rope
- Clothes pins
- Duct tape
- Multi-tool/utility knife
- Small handheld broom (for sweeping out the tent)

## LIGHT SOURCES

- Lantern (at least one per tent makes camping much more enjoyable)



### LIGHT SOURCES CONTINUED

- Headlamps for all



### TOILETRIES

- Bath towels and washcloths
- Soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Shampoo
- Quarters for pay showers
- Toothbrushes/toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Razor
- Toilet paper and trowel
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm
- Baby wipes (very handy for campsite cleanup)



### FAMILY MEDICAL KIT

- Bandages
- Benadryl
- Poison ivy treatment such as CORTAID® Treatment Kit.
- Antibiotic ointment/wipes
- Burn ointment
- Thermometer
- Bug repellent
- Aspirin
- Tweezers (good for removing splinters and ticks)
- Moleskin



### CLOTHING FOR ALL

- Trail-running shoes or hiking boots (broken in and waterproofed)
- Sandals/flip-flops (for public showers)
- Wool socks
- Synthetic long-underwear bottoms and tops
- Synthetic shorts or convertible pants
- Underwear
- Synthetic/wicking T-shirt
- Rain/wind jacket and pants
- Wool or fleece sweater or jacket (vest, if warmer)

- Pajamas
- Bathing suits
- Sunglasses
- Wool or fleece hat\*
- Wool/fleece gloves or mittens\*



### PLAY EQUIPMENT

- Swim towels
- Water shoes (if needed)
- Daypacks
- Water bottles
- Camera and film
- Video camera
- Reading material for all
- Guidebooks and maps
- Camping reservation info



### KID STUFF

- Outdoor toys (Frisbee, kites, soccer ball, football, Wiffle Ball, etc.)
- Whistle
- Toys, board games, or deck of cards
- Water toys or floats
- Child's potty



### BABY GEAR

- Diapers
- Wipes
- Changing pad
- Port-a-Crib
- Bug netting for crib and stroller
- Baby blankets
- Portable high chair or sassy seat (the latter is esp. good for picnic tables)
- Bibs
- Formula
- Bottles
- Baby spoon
- Baby bowl
- Baby food
- Stroller or baby jogger

\*Indicates optional/depending on climate and geography