



Packing for Your GCY Program Partners in Science

How to Pack

You need **one bag** for this program. All of your personal items should be packed into a **backpacking-style backpack**. It should be about 30 to 50 liters in volume. Pack ALL of your belongings into it. GCY will provide a waterproof “dry bag” to pack your belongings in once you get to the river. Remember that you will be carrying everything **in to / out of** Grand Canyon on your back. Pack as lightly as possible!

On the river, GCY will provide a **small school-sized backpack**, or “day pack.” You will use it for items you need during the day like water bottles, sunscreen, lip balm, any day-time medications, rain gear, etc. Keep in mind that things in this day pack will get wet.



Left: Your backpack with personal items will be packed into a dry bag, then rolled and buckled to ensure contents stay dry!

Right: A sturdy 40 to 60 liter pack will work perfectly. Remember to pack light!

**Bags are not to scale*

GCY Will Provide...

A lifejacket and dry bag containing a sleeping bag, sleeping pad, and ground tarp. There are also tents available, although most nights groups will sleep out under the stars! Other gear coming along for the trip includes boats, a full kitchen, a wilderness bathroom (“groover”), all food and snacks, fresh water, and a kit full of games, books, and art supplies.

Borrowing from GCY

GCY has many items available to borrow at our warehouse, including river shoes and rain jackets. Please check with us before purchasing any items! We understand that kids grow quickly, and purchasing outdoor gear can be a burden. Work with your Trip Coordinator to request certain items, or stop by the GCY warehouse and try on things for yourself.

Do Not Bring

If you do not see an item on the Equipment List, it is because **we have intentionally left it off**. Avoid bringing heavy clothing, towels, jeans, nice shoes, or leather boots. GCY programs are intentionally technology free, so please do not bring any electronics (cell phones, mp3 players, gaming devices). Remember anything you bring may get lost or ruined! Leave behind all money, wallets, and other valuables (watches, jewelry, favorite clothes, etc.). GCY will provide plenty of snacks, so **leave all food and drinks** at home as well.

Medications

Please bring TWO SETS of any necessary or prescription medications (inhalers, Epi pens, daily medications, etc.). One set will stay with you and the other will go with your Trip Coordinator as backup. **YOUTH MUST BE ABLE TO MANAGE AND ADMINISTER THEIR OWN MEDICATIONS.** GCY provides extensive first-aid kits for the program. You do not need to bring any over-the-counter medications or first-aid supplies.

Equipment List

Arrive Wearing

- River shoes:** 1 pair of sport sandals with a thick sole and heel strap, such as Texas, Chacos, or Keens.
- Quick-dry shorts:** They should be made of nylon or fast-drying material (not cotton!). Athletic shorts, swim trunks, or leggings. (Bring 2 extra, pack in camp bag)
- Bathing suit tops (for girls):** No tying swimsuits, dark-colored sports bras recommended. (Bring 2 extra, pack in camp bag)
- Sun shirts:** Long-sleeved, lightweight, cotton shirts are ideal for sun protection. Think men's dress shirts. Wearing shirts is required. (Bring 2 extra, pack in camp bag)
- Sun hat:** With a large brim and chin-strap. Wearing a hat is required.
- Sunglasses**
- Retention device:** Small strap for your sunglasses or eyeglasses so you don't lose them, such as Chums or Croakies.

Pack in Large Backpack

- Athletic Shoes or Hiking Boots:** 1 pair of running/P.E. shoes with good traction. Should be well worn in. Skate shoes and nice sneakers are not recommended.
- Socks:** Bring 2-3 pairs.
- Underwear:** Bring 4-6 pairs.
- Pajamas:** Bring 1-2 sets of a t-shirt and light weight pants or shorts to sleep in.
- Headlamp or small flashlight:** Pack it with a new set of batteries.
- Personal toiletries:** Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, conditioner, feminine products (tampons with non-plastic or no applicators are suggested). Choose travel-size and biodegradable products when available.
- Lotion or petroleum jelly:** Bring 8-16 oz. Jars of with screw lids leak the least.
- Pillowcase:** There is no room for a pillow in your bag. You can stuff clothes into a pillowcase to create a substitute.
- Plastic bags:** (optional) Like from the grocery store. These can be used to separate dirty and clean clothes in your camp bag.
- Water bottles:** 2 Nalgene-type screw top plastic bottles. You need at least 2 liters. Camelbacks or other hydration packs are okay as long as you also bring a spare water bottle.
- Carabiners:** 2 metal clips that let you attach your backpack and water bottle to boats. Find them at outdoor shops. They should be at least 3 inches long, and do not need to be climbing grade or locking.
- Rain gear:** 1 Rain jacket (no ponchos) & 1 pair of rain pants.
- Lightweight fleece jacket:** Bring 1
- Sarong / lightweight cotton pants:** Bring 1 for sun protection and cooling off. Lightweight scarves or hospital scrub bottoms work well.
- Bandana:** Bring 1 to wet and tie around your neck, wear under your hat to keep cool, or as a washcloth.
- Waterproof disposable cameras:** (optional) Bringing large or expensive cameras is not recommended.
- Eyeglasses:** If needed. If you wear contact lenses, bring an extra set and back-up glasses, just in case.
- Sunscreen:** At least a 6 oz. bottle.
- Lip balm / Chapstick**
- Personal medications:** Bring 2 sets!