**Winter 2020-21 To-Bring List**

We are so happy you will be joining us this winter! While we have an indoor space to use if needed, please be aware that we will be outside for the majority of our time together. It is therefore essential that each child comes prepared with the appropriate clothing and food to have a fun day. Please read the list of required gear below and make a plan of how you will have these things ready before the program begins. Please be aware of the weather forecast each day of your child’s program, and prepare accordingly. We reserve the right to send children home, without a refund, when they are insufficiently prepared for the day.

***What to bring?***

* **Weather appropriate clothing**. Please dress in **non-cotton (fleece, silk, synthetic, wool) layers** that can be added and removed. A **weatherproof** **jacket** that is large enough to fit over multiple layers of clothing and blocks wind and rain (if temperatures are above freezing) or snow (if it is below freezing). **Water resistant or waterproof pants are also required.** If the weather is above freezing, **rain gear** with layers underneath is best. For more information about dressing for winter, read [Dressing Young Children for Winter Fun](http://cdn.sitemandala.com/assets/103170/dressing-for-winter-2015.pdf) and **see our** [**Weather Dressing Chart**](http://cdn.sitemandala.com/assets/115466/2019-dressing-for-the-weather-chart.pdf). Your child will have the option to leave bulky/heavy items in a central location if needed. Please label them.
* At least one **clean** **face covering**, as defined by the NYS Department of Health: "Acceptable face coverings include, but are not limited to, cloth (e.g. homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana), surgical masks, N95 respirators, and face shields." Your child must be able to put this face covering on by themselves. We *strongly recommend* packing at least one additional face covering in case the one worn to program becomes soiled or wet during the day.
* **Two pairs of thick,** **non-cotton socks,** one to be worn and another to go in backpack.
* **Insulated footwear**. Thick neoprene boots (like Muck boots or Bogs—look for the thickest they offer) are both warm and waterproof and can be worn in all kinds of winter weather. Snow boots are only appropriate if the ground is not too wet.
* **Hat, waterproof mittens/gloves and neck warmer** (scarf or balaclava). We encourage children to wear mittens as they are much warmer than gloves.
* **Snack and lunch\*** in an easy to carry container (like Tupperware or a plastic bag) that can fit in a backpack. On cold days, calorie-rich, warm food that your child will be excited to eat is best. While heating food on a camp fire may be an option, please do not pack food that relies on cooking for your child to be fully nourished for the day.
* **Water bottle** that can hold about 1 liter/32 oz. If using an insulated bottle, please fill with warm, not hot, water.
* A **non-breakable** **hot cup** for drinking wild tea.
* A **backpack/daypack** to hold your child’s gear that fits well and is easy for them to carry. Backpacks with zippers and padded straps are best. Use extra plastic bags inside to keep things dry when precipitation is in the forecast.
* *Optional Items:*
	+ **Hand sanitizer** (recommended)
	+ **Hand towel** or Bandana (recommended)
	+ **Knifes & Tools:** If your child brings a knife or any other sharp tool, purchased or homemade, then they must “check them in” with an instructor when they arrive. Children under 8 may **not** bring these items to program. To be used at program all knives must be fixed-blade and judged as appropriate for the child’s use.
	+ A **Field Guide** of interest

 **Whenever possible, please label ALL items with y**o**ur child’s name (including lunch containers, face masks, water bottles, etc.). This saves time and reduces waste.**

**Group snacks:** Bringing snack/treats for the whole group is a nice gesture. But due to present concerns of hygiene, you will need to pre-approve anything intended to be distributed. Please speak with the on-site Program Coordinator for further guidelines.

Please note that it is not necessary to purchase any of the items above as new. Check out local thrift stores and stores like Old Goat that sell lightly used outdoor gear. Ask family and friends for hand-me-downs or loaners. If you are looking for new gear, here is a list of some brands and local suppliers:

Brands [- L.L Bean](http://www.llbean.com) , [Puddlegear](https://www.puddlegear.com/) , [Biddle & Bop](https://www.biddleandbop.com/), [Polarn O. Pyret](http://www.polarnopyretusa.com), [The Original Muck Boot Company](https://www.muckbootcompany.com/) [Bogs](http://www.bogsfootwear.com), Kamik, REI

Local stores – Agway, Fontana’s, Tractor Supply

***What NOT to bring?***

* No electronic devices or potentially hazardous objects (knives, for example) without checking in with an instructor.
* Cell phones are not recommended. If you must send your child with a cell phone, it must stay in the participant's bag out of sight with the ringer turned off during the program.
* Do not bring gum. Gum is a choking hazard in such an active program, and it creates litter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at **607-272-2292**. We’ll be happy to talk with you!

The Primitive Pursuits Team