

Equipment Meeting Notes 11/2/11

Sleeping bag should be a 40-degree bag:

Down feather-

Pro: It can pack down really small. It is rather lightweight, if it gets wet it will still keep you warm, last a long time if taken care of

Con: It is more expensive, takes a long time to dry if it does get wet

Synthetic bag

Pro: Cheaper than down feather, Dries faster if it gets wet

Con: If it gets wet it will not keep you as warm, they do not last as long as down feather

Sleeping pad: they are used because when we are in tents we sleep on many different surfaces from sand to grass or hard packed ground. They help insulate the body from the ground and help you sleep more comfortably. There are many different types from full length to ones that just have your torso go on them. They should be lightweight and easily packable

Sleeping bag liner: Is good to have because it will keep the inside of the sleeping bag really nice. You can fold a bed sheet in half and sew it or you can buy an expensive silk one. The main reason to have a liner is when we are on overnight hikes we do not have access to showers so you put this in your bag. Then after the hike is done and we get to a place for laundry you can wash the liner.

Headlamp or flashlight: Headlamps are recommended because we will be cooking and doing things at night where you will need to use both hands so holding a flashlight get tricky. There are many different types that range from \$20-\$100.

Towels: some sort of towel to dry off when camping, they make microfiber camp towels that pack down small and dry quickly, but just a regular towel works also.

Water bottle: Just a regular water bottle or two work you should be able to carry at least 2 liters of water, more if you drink a lot of water when doing activities.

Cutlery set: Everyone needs a plate, cup, bowl and eating utensils. A basic mess kit can start at \$6 and go up to \$40

Cooking pot: not everyone needs to have a pot and pan set because about 3-4 people can share one. These range from \$10-\$70

Camp Stove: again 3-4 people can share this. Most stoves that people bring on the trip are canister stoves because they are small and compact. They can be purchased for about \$40

Internal frame backpack: This will be for our multiday hikes when we need to bring our tent, sleeping bag and pad, clothes and food with us. The bag should be between 3000-6000 cubic inches. The bag should be worn with weight before you go on the trip to make sure it fits and is comfortable.

Daypack: many of hikes are day walks so all they need to fit is some food, water and rain jacket or other things you need throughout the day. Most people just bring a regular backpack and use it as their carry-on for the plane.

Duffle bag: It is best to use a duffle bag instead of a wheeled suitcase because it packs easier into the trailers and carrying in and out of the lodging.

Clothing: It may sound crazy what we have down for the casual clothes but it helps keep your bag light. You will be in charge of moving your bags when we move to new places.

Baggage allowed: for our international flights everyone is allowed 2 check bags which will be the duffle and hiking backpack, and they are also allowed on carry on and one personal bag such as a purse or small laptop case.

Electrical things: New Zealand and Australia are on 240-volt power and the US uses 110-volt. Most electronics have a built in converter and it will say right on it that it converts 240 to 110. Many hair dryers and curling irons do not convert the electricity so you would need to purchase a converter. Also the New Zealand and Australia outlets are different so you will need an adapter to plug in any electronics from the US.

Females: When the groups are sent out most females talk to the others in the group and they share their hair dryers, curling irons, and all those sorts of things, that way not everyone is packing all those things.

Credit Cards: It is best to tell your bank when and where you will be traveling so that they do not think your card was stolen when you start making purchases in another country.

Money: After we land we will leave the airport and go to a bank where we can get a better exchange rate than that of the one at the airport. You can either just withdraw from the ATM or bring cash or travelers checks and exchange them for New Zealand dollars. Also most banks charge some transaction fee from using the cards internationally normally 1%-3%