

Trail Crew Gear

Be ready to show your gear to Crew Leaders the first day.

We double check your personal gear before you go into the woods with LTP the first time.

When planning what to bring, **ask yourself** “What will I need . . . to camp out for a week? To do hard, dirty work? To be outside in all weather?”

And **Ask GMC** - call any time with questions about what gear to bring (802-244-7037 ext. 118).

GMC provides:

- < A collector’s item worthy Long Trail Patrol t-shirt.
- < Safety gear, crew first aid kit, and tools (including freighter packs for hauling work supplies like chainsaws, bark mulch, or lumber.)
- < Group camping gear (including a two burner Coleman stoves; pots, pans, utensils; tarps; water purification.)
- < We have tents for crew members. Our tents are not the greatest quality, but they do work. (If everyone uses our tents, you will have to share. You are welcome to bring your own tent if you want private space, or if you just like the quality of your own tent.)

You provide your own:

- You *must* have **sturdy boots** that rise above your ankles and have non-slip soles. (Boots are required - you cannot work on the crew without boots.) Boots must be comfortable enough to hike many miles. Gaiters are strongly recommended.
- Work gloves** – bring your own if you want them to fit your hands. (We have gloves you can use, but they might not fit you.)
- Work Clothes**; durable comfortable clothes you don’t mind getting dirty or destroyed.
- Daypack** for wearing to the work site each day.
- Backpack and pack cover (contractor garbage bags work)** for packing-in personal gear and camp supplies.
- three water bottles** each a liter/quart in size.
- Sleeping bag and sleeping pad.** (Bag must have at least 20 degrees F rating.)
- “After work clothes”** - fresh clothes and light shoes to change into after the work day; including an extra set of warm clothes that you keep clean and dry to change into at night. And a swimsuit!
- Flashlight or headlamp**
- Personal** (toiletries, feminine hygiene, your own supply of bug spray, ibuprofen, moleskin, etc.)
- Tent if you want to have your own tent.
- Cash Money** for food for the first few weeks. (Since crews are in the woods when checks are issued it will probably be three weeks before you have your first check in hand.)

(Over)

Bad weather clothes

Explanation: “If you don’t like the weather in Vermont, wait ten minutes.” At any time during the LTP season it could be anything from hot with lots of bugs to cold and wet. (Or it could be pleasant and wonderful!) The cold wet weather could be dangerous if you are not prepared.

- You *must* have **warm clothes to wear when it is cold and wet**. Bring a set of warm pants, warm long sleeve top, warm hat, and plenty of wool socks. In September bring long underwear too. Warm clothes are made out of wool or synthetic fabrics like polypropylene or fleece. (**Cotton does not work when you are cold**. Jeans and sweatshirts are NOT warm clothes.)
- You *must* bring **rain gear** - such as a poncho or a rain jacket and rain pants.
- Ironically, bring cool clothes to wear when it is hot and dry*, such as cotton t-shirts.

A Baker’s Dozen Trail Crew Gear Tips:

1. *Daypack* - bring a daypack with loops or straps that you can hang tools off of. Your daypack should be solid, but need not be expensive - you may blow it out in a season of carrying tools, getting it caked in mud, etc. Little “book bags” don’t work.
3. *Length matters sometimes* – You will have to work in long pants for safety reasons. You can wear shorts for packing in gear. Long sleeved shirts are recommended for working as well for safety reasons (and the black flies in June and early July)
4. *Don’t expect to need too many changes of clothes* - you can save weight by wearing the same work clothes all week and switching into the same ‘clean’ clothes each night; though everybody has their own improvement on this, such as carrying in fresh socks for each day.
5. *Nothing will keep you completely dry*, but several things will keep you warm even if you are wet - a.k.a. polypro long underwear is the best rain gear (or a wool shirt, etc.)
6. *Cheap rain gear is fine*, - a.k.a. Gortex doesn’t work when it is muddy.
7. *Take off your boots* after work - have a second pair of shoes, sandals, etc. – barefoot behavior can lead to cuts and infections - *please be careful!*
8. *Candle lanterns* work great when you are reading or sitting around talking - save your batteries. *Headlamps* work great when you are walking or looking for something.
9. *Bring your own minor first aid items*. The crew first aid kit is for emergencies. If you expect to need some aspirin, moleskin, bug dope, sun screen, etc, you should bring some of your own.
10. *Treat yourself right* - bring a Crazy Creek chair, musical instrument, long stem glasses, foot powder, a book to read aloud around the campfire . . .
11. *Tupperware* - yes tupperware. It is a squish resistant way to carry sandwiches, bananas, etc. in your day pack. And darn handy to store left overs in. Also ziplock bags. Insulated mug. A little bowl and a spoon. Other favorite mess kit items. And you get the idea.
12. *Feminine Hygiene* - the *advice from women* who have worked on the LTP is: a.) Always carry some to be on the safe side (or to loan to someone who forgot theirs); and b.) Bring a sturdy, sealable container to pack everything out (like a small tupperware, or a ziplock reinforced by wrapping it in duct tape, etc.)
13. Hey, we didn’t hire no dummies - you give the rest of us a tip: _____ .

Bring more with you this summer than you will actually take into the woods each week.

You can store items at the crew housing. It is good to have nice clothes to change into, spare equipment, and just fun stuff.

Don’t hesitate to ask any questions. If you have any question or concern while preparing for the season, just get a hold of us here at the GMC office. We’re here to support you!