OJAI VALLEY SCHOOL

UPPER CAMPUS
OUTDOOR EDUCATION EQUIPMENT LIST

All students must be in possession of required outdoor equipment by the first week of school. This is to ensure students are prepared for their camping trips and are familiar with the gear they are using while on their trips. This year we are offering a used gear sale during student check-in, as well as during the first week of school. Pack checks will take place with camping groups that week.

Packs

1 internal frame backpack (capable of handling 45 lbs. plus, with hip belt; 4,000 cubic inches/65 liters)
1 daypack (lightweight)

Sleeping

1 polarguard sleeping bag (20 degree Fahrenheit or -7 Celsius rating) with stuff sac
1 sleeping pad (Thermarest or Ridgerest)
1 ground sheet or tarp (6x4 - 9x9)

Eating / Drinking

1 lightweight cup
1 lightweight bowl
1 lightweight utensil set (spork, chopsticks, knife)
2 water bottles (wide mouth Nalgene)

Clothes / Layers

1 set rain gear (jacket and pants)
1 set of polypropylene, or capilene base layers (thermal/long underwear), top and bottom
1 pair non-cotton long pants for hiking
1 non-cotton shirts for hiking
1 pair synthetic shorts for water or hiking
1 wool or fleece hat that covers ears
1 heavy sweater/insulating layer made of fleece or synthetic material (no cotton)
1 light sweater or long sleeve shirt (fleece or synthetic)
2 pairs of wool or synthetic socks

Footwear

1 pair of water shoes (Keen, Teva, Crocs, or 2nd pair of tennis shoes that can get wet)
1 pair of lightweight hiking boots (needs good tread, and ankle support)

Other Gear

1 hat baseball style hat with brim or sun hat
1 toothbrush toothpaste and floss
1-2 small stuff sacs for clothing and toiletries
1 locking carabiner
1 pair sunglasses
1 bathing suit
1 sunscreen
1 bandana
1 chapstick
1 headlamp with extra batteries

Optional Gear

Tent - 2 person 3 season tent (Black Diamond, North Face, Kelty, REI, Eureka)
Camp Pillow
Lightweight towel
Wetsuit
Mask and snorkel with fins

TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN BUYING EQUIPMENT:

1. **QUALITY.** Most trips will be in remote backcountry locations. All gear is not created equal. It will benefit you most in terms of comfort and safety to invest in quality gear/clothing that is guaranteed to perform as expected in the outdoors. Buy from an outfitter that can give you assistance in choosing the appropriate items. Below is a list of some recommended outdoor retailers. You can order from most of them online, but it is best to visit a store and have someone help with fitting and to answer questions. Make sure the store you consult carries backpacking gear, not just "camping" gear. The durability, weight, and performance of backpacking clothing and gear is very different from "camping" gear which is intended for situations when getting in the car and going home is an option. For most of our trips, it will not be! Therefore you must be prepared with the proper equipment beforehand.

2. **SIZE.** Most of the equipment you need to buy is sized. For example, the backpack you should own will have two critical sizes:

a) The capacity of the pack expressed in cubic inches — yours should hold at least 4,000 cubic inches (65 liters).

b) The size of the pack that will fit you — this is based on the length of your back and width of your shoulders. It is very important to get the right size pack!

OTHER INFORMATION & RECOMMENDED BRANDS:

Backpacks: Backpack must be large enough to carry all your gear plus group gear for a weeklong expedition. Brands: Gregory, Lowe, North Face, Dana Designs, REI, ArcTeryx, Kelty, or others of similar quality.

Tents: North Face, Mountain Hardware, Sierra Designs, Eureka, Black Diamond.

Sleeping Bags: Lightweight, synthetic fill, mummy-style bag rated to 20 degrees Fahrenheit (-7 degrees Celsius). Consider that this bag must be bulky enough to keep you warm but stuff small enough to fit in your backpack. Brands: North Face, Mountain Hardwear, Marmot, Sierra Designs.

Sleeping Pad: You will need this to keep you insulated from the cold ground. Either the roll-up or folding foam type or inflatable type are acceptable. However, if you choose the inflatable Thermarest-style, make sure you buy the lightweight backpacking model, not the heavier camping model.

Rain Gear: Rain gear must be waterproof and designed for backpacking. Rain resistant sportswear is not adequate! Staying dry can mean the difference between a safe, comfortable trip and a potential emergency. Please take care to purchase the correct gear. Brands: Mountain Hardware, Marmot, North Face, Patagonia, Mont Bell.

Boots: Boots are the most personal equipment. You must find a brand that is both sturdy, protective, waterproof, and that fit your feet without creating blisters or hotspots. For some trips lightweight, low-top boots with a lugged sole may be appropriate. Most of all, try them on. Walk in them. Make sure they are comfortable and fit with heavy wool socks. Brands: Montrail, Raichle, Vasque, Hi Tec, Asolo, Merrell, and many others.

Tent: OVS will provide shelter on trips where it is necessary. Many times we will sleep under the stars. If you want to purchase and carry your own tent, keep this in mind: It's easier to split the weight of a tent between two or three people, so you will probably want to get at least a two-person tent. Make sure that your tent is "three season." This means it is guaranteed to keep you dry in rainy weather. Buy a name brand tent from a reputable outdoor store that will stand behind its product. Many tents claim to be waterproof, but in a heavy storm they fail. Choose carefully. Buy lightweight.

RECOMMENDED RETAILERS:

* Patagonia * REI * Eastern Mountain Sports * Campmor

Local retail stores in Ventura and Oxnard will have most of the necessary items on this list.

REI is located at 2700 Seaglass Way in Oxnard, just off the 101 Freeway. Ph: (805) 981-1938.

Patagonia's first retail store, Great Pacific Iron Works, is located at 235 W. Santa Clara St. in Ventura. Ph: (805) 643-6074.

Real Cheap Sports in Ventura is located at 36 W Santa Clara St. Ph: (805) 648-3803