Winter/Snow Camping Checklist

Note: This list is intentionally extensive; not every person will bring every item on every trip.

The Ten Essentials (for safety, survival and basic comfort)

1. Navigation
   - Map (with protective case)
   - Compass
   - GPS (optional)

2. Sun protection
   - Sunscreen and lip balm
   - Sunglasses

3. Insulation
   - Jacket, vest, pants, gloves, hat (see Clothing)

4. Illumination
   - Headlamp or flashlight
   - Extra batteries

5. First-aid supplies
   - First-aid kit (see our First-Aid Checklist)

6. Fire
   - Matches or lighter
   - Waterproof container
   - Fire starter (for emergency survival fire)

7. Repair kit and tools
   - Knife or multi-tool
   - Duct tape strips; repair items as needed

8. Nutrition
   - Extra day’s supply of food

9. Hydration
   - Water bottles or hydration system (insulated)
   - Water filter or other treatment system

10. Emergency shelter
    - Tent, tarp, bivy or reflective blanket

Beyond the Ten Essentials

- Backpack
- Daypack or summit pack
- 4-season tent or tarp or bivy sack
- Snow or tent stakes and guylines
- Tent-pole repair sleeve
- Footprint (if needed for tent)
- Sleeping bag (liner optional)
- Stuff sack or compression sack
- 2 sleeping pads per person (+ optional chair kit)
- Pillow or stuffable pillowcase
- Packable lantern
- Snowshoes
- Skis (with skins)
- Crampons
- Ice axe
- Trekking poles (with snow baskets)
- Multifunction watch with altimeter
- Signaling mirror (often on compass)
- Whistle
- Personal locator beacon (PLB)
- Avalanche transceiver (1 per person)
- Avalanche probe (1 per person)
- Slope shovel (1 per person)
- Snow meter
- Snow saw
- Meals
- Energy food (bars, gels, chews, trail mix)
- Energy beverages or drink mixes
- Stove
- Fuel
- Cookset with large pot (for melting snow)
- Dishes or bowls
- Utensils
- Cups (measuring cups)
- Pot grabber
- Food-storage sacks or canister
- 50’ nylon cord
- Backup water treatment (e.g., halogens)

Clothing

- Base layer: wicking underwear
- Mid layer: insulating jacket/vest/pants
- Shell: rain jacket (or soft-shell jacket)
- Rain pants (or soft-shell pants)
- Dry clothing for camp
- Insulating hat, cap or headband
- Balaclava and/or face mask
- Goggles
- Gloves and/or mittens
- Waterproof overmitts

Footwear; Assorted Personal Items

- Insulated Boots
- Main socks, liner socks, spare socks
- Gaiters
- Camp booties
- Bandana or Buff
- Toilet paper + sanitation trowel
- Hand sanitizer + quick-dry towel
- Toothbrush and/or toiletry kit
- Notebook and pen or pencil
- Permits
- Guidebook; interpretive field guide(s)
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Two-way radios
- Cell or satellite phone
- Music player with headphones
- Small amount of cash or credit card
- Trip itinerary left with friend + under car seat

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