



Chapter 3- Pre Program

Chapter 3 provides information about student selection and placement; reviews the communication process between Crew leaders and Crew members; and gives examples of letters and equipment lists.

How Participants are Selected

Our goal is to assure the most qualified participants on your crew and to increase our customer service to participants, crew leaders and agencies, while spreading the admissions workload over a period of months. Qualified applicants should be comfortable being away from home for an extended period of time, and have a strong desire to serve on an SCA crew.

Participant Application Deadlines

SCA accepts applications throughout the year for the Conservation Crew program. Selections begin in early January and continue through May, with the bulk of placement happening in February and March. SCA does not have a set application deadline, but continues to accept applications until all positions have been filled each season. Any additional applications will be automatically added to the waitlist, or the following year applications. SCA charges a non-refundable, one-time application fee of \$25 for US candidates (\$40 for non-US), to offset a portion of processing expenses.

Admissions Process Outline

The following is a chronological outline of the rolling admission process.

1. Crew member applicants will send in their applications, and additional forms. The Placement Team will review all applications on an ongoing basis.
2. Placement staff will complete the participant screening process.
Crew members are both medically reviewed, and character reviewed before being placed on a crew. While SCA medically screens all participants, it is the Crew Leaders responsibility to review their member's medical forms, and become familiar with any medical conditions. SCA's Member review process is as follows:
 - Review of participant application.
 - Follow-up on missing information and forms.
 - Thorough and confidential review of medical information.
 - Identify and follow-up on with any medical concerns.
 - Review the applicant's references and short answers, to determine eligibility for crew participation.
 - Recommend participants for a specific program type (i.e. front country, backcountry, low elevation, etc.).
3. Once a student is selected for a crew, they will be emailed a Placement Letter with information on their program. Crew members then have 7 days to confirm their acceptance to the crew, and 14 days to send in their travel arrangements.
4. Once the applicant has confirmed acceptance of their crew, the Placement team will send out the Selection Forms and Member Handbook. This includes general information on SCA, expectations, the medical response waiver, and acknowledgment and release form. **Take a look at this packet, so you are familiar with the information.** It is available on the crew leader website.
5. Once SCA has received all information, the member is officially selected for the position. This is where your leader responsibilities start.

Corresponding With Your Crew

Once students accept positions for a crew program, they will begin getting excited about their upcoming SCA summer. As a crew leader hired for a specific program, you will be given the contact information for those students so that you may begin to communicate with them and answer many of their planning, equipment, and generally curious questions. It is very important that you indicate contact as soon as the crew is selected in order to be sure that your members are ready for their crew.

How do I find my members?

Once you have been selected to a crew, you can access member's applications and medical information through our online system. You will first need to:

- To go the website, www.thesca.org.
- Click on Login, at the top right hand side of any web page – unless you are already logged into your profile, in which case click on “my sca”, on the menu bar.
- Login to your application. You will need then to re-enter your password again for security purposes.
- Once you have accessed your application you will note under the Main Menu tab “Members”. Click here.
- You will then see the members attached to your crew(s) and can open and view their information. You will also use this page to print medical and insurance information to add to the Crews First Aid Kit.

The First Letter

As soon as you know who your participants are you should initiate contact. You may not have a full crew at first, as SCA's placement process is ongoing. This should not discourage you from starting communication with current members. You may choose to send your first letter via email or hard copy in the mail. Leaders must also communicate with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of members. Any contact to a member should also go to their parent(s)/guardian(s). Tailor your communication to participants with this in mind.

Items to include:

- A description of the specific living and working conditions of the field. Explain if the work project description is different from those given in the program listing, as they often are.
- Confirm their travel arrangements to the area including specifics like exactly where to meet you and what to do if they have troubles or miss a connection.
- An equipment list tailored to your specific program. SCA has a general gear list on the website. Please take a look at it, and then send your participants any changes to this list, and more site specific requirements if any. This list will guide their shopping and packing. Take into consideration local weather extremes, geography, altitude and work conditions.
- Instructions to start physically preparing for the crew.
- Instructions to buy boots if they do not already own them. You should direct them to begin wearing their boots immediately, old or new.
- A biography of yourself and your co-leader. Your experience, training, and basic information are good to include.
- Your phone number and email address. Your members may need to follow up with you and need to contact you directly.
- Ask if they have special dietary needs or food preferences and/or include the Food Preference Form to be filled out by the participant, and returned to you.

Additional Items That Are Helpful

You may want to include some other information in your packet. Crew Leaders have had good success sending:

- Inspirational quotes or natural history facts in the letter.
- A list of suggested readings that pertain to the area you will be in.
- A topographic map of the area with explanation of where you will camp, work, hike, etc.

Turn to the end of Chapter 3 for the master equipment list and for samples of letters, biographies, a sample student checklist and food preference forms.

The Second Letter

Experience has shown that students and their families want to hear from you regularly before the program begins. Sending a second letter about three weeks after the first is a good way to keep your crew committed and excited for the program. You can also impart further information and send other fun extras. The key points you should cover in your letter are:

Items to include:

- Keep participants psyched, and break in your boots now!

- Instructions to travel to the area wearing their boots, t-shirt, and be sure to carry-on their sleeping bag.
- Your personal recommendations of things you'd like them to leave at home. Crew leaders differ, but most include ipods, expensive jewelry, and contraband in this category.
- Ask them to notify you as soon as possible if their travel plans change.

Additional Items That Are Helpful

- A brochure from the park or forest.
- A checklist for them of things they need to do.

Phone Calls

You should call participants two to three weeks prior to the start of the program and in-between the first and second letter serves many purposes; from just checking in to say "Hi," to detecting any possible problems. When you speak to the participants on the phone, also speak to a parent/guardian. Parents often have more questions than the members. Be mindful that this may be the first time their child is leaving home for an extended time, and they could also be sending them to a place they may not have been to, with crew leaders they most likely have not met. When you speak to them on the phone be sure to converse with them in a way that provides them a high level of confidence in you, in your role of their child's guardian for the summer. They are, after all, relying on you to provide an incredible and safe experience for their child – their greatest treasure. Parents are also your best allies in getting your participants prepared for their program.

Check to make sure they have the most essential items on the gear list, and see if they need advice on gathering other items. Gauge the participants enthusiasm for the program, if you sense that things are not as they should be, follow up with another call. It's better to head off problems before the program begins.

A final phone call the day before the participants leave for the program is very beneficial. Parents are often reassured by this call, as it sets up a responsible image of you the leader, as well as offering the member and family a resource for last minute questions or concerns. The member and their family are possibly very nervous and excited for the coming event. A final verbal check-in is a great reassurance for everyone.

What SCA Sends

Besides the pre-placement communication between the applicants and SCA, once an applicant is selected, SCA continues to send the participant information regarding their upcoming assignment. Following is a list of all that SCA sends out.

- Member and Parent Handbook, included with Selection forms.
- SCA Logo T-Shirt.
- Letter of Welcome from President Dale Penny.
- Site mailing address.

SAMPLE FIRST LETTER

“There are some who can live without wild things, and some who can not...Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher "standard of living" is worth its cost in things natural, wild and free. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television, and the chance to find a pasque flower is a right as inalienable as free speech.”

-- Aldo Leopold
A Sand County Almanac

May 7, 2000

Dear _____,

Congratulations, you are now part of an extraordinary group of individuals about to embark on a four-week experience in the beautiful Cascade Mountains of Washington. The Cascade Mountains begin in British Columbia and stretch down through Washington, Oregon and into northern California. The western side of the mountains receives abundant rainfall each year, which in turn has created huge CONIFEROUS trees which rival in tonnage the biomass of the tropical rain forests. Fortunately for us, one of the secrets to the success of these gargantuan trees is that most of the rain falls here between October and March (perhaps you can figure out why this would give coniferous trees an advantage over DECIDUOUS trees). It also means that although we may experience rain in all its various forms, it is unlikely that we will spend all of our four weeks together growing moldy. We will be camping at Gem Lake at approximately 4,000 feet in elevation in a SUB-ALPINE area surrounded by craggy peaks, lots of HUCKLEBERRIES and wildlife. We will also be within 50 miles of the city of Seattle and will see plenty of natives passing through to do their summer rituals of fishing and hiking. During our hike we will attempt to outrun all of them and get some solitude of our own.

Not only will we be enjoying the mountain scenery, but we will be working to restore the trail system in the area. We will be working primarily with rock building CRIB WALLS, CULVERTS, CHECK DAMS, WATERBARS, rock crib for a primitive FOOTLOG and PUNCHEON. There is a possibility that we will do some REVEGETATION work. We will be doing hard physical labor and you can expect to work fairly long hours in hot or cold weather and rain. That's right folks, heat may slow us down some, but our trail work will proceed undaunted in any weather. Our recreation time will also be rigorous, with mountains in our backyards and cold lakes to swim in. After the first twenty four days of work we will go on a backpacking trip for four days. The backpack trip is for some as challenging as the work time- we will be carrying all that we need on our backs. So the bottom line to all this is--get in shape NOW. The better prepared you are, the more enjoyable the experience will be.

This brings me to the topic of what you need to do to get ready. To get in shape I suggest running or doing stairs and walking with your backpack loaded. You can fill your pack with books or water jugs, making sure to distribute the weight evenly but fairly low in the pack. Don't try to carry more than 1/3 of your body weight. It may seem awkward to walk around your neighborhood with a large pack, but it will get your muscles accustomed to the weight of the pack. This training is used by many a mountain climber.

During our time together, you will come to recognize your feet as the most important part of your body. Those dogs on the ends of your legs are going to be your sole transportation (puns go from bad to worse as summer progresses). If you do not already have a pair of ALL LEATHER, lug soled work boots (as further described on SCA's equipment list) get them right away. When you buy them tell the salesperson that you will be doing trail work. You do not need steel toed boots. Hiking boots will be fine, as long as they met all of the above requirements. If you already have a pair of these kinds of hiking boots and would like to bring them for the hike or for after work that is fine. Regardless if you already have all leather boots, or have just purchased them, start wearing them now for short periods of time (1/2 hour). It's important that your feet become adjusted to wearing these boots, and that the boots stretch and mold to you. To avoid blisters, wear a thin pair of socks under thick socks or tape your feet where they begin to rub.

All the equipment you need is on SCA's cold weather equipment list. Don't feel like you have to walk into an outdoor store and buy top of the line gear. I do not believe that you need to spend a lot of money to live comfortably in the outdoors. On the other hand, you also may consider that you will to use this gear for a long time. If you decide that you like being outdoors, good quality equipment is a valuable investment in future adventures. Try looking in used clothing stores or used equipment stores (if there is one in your town). Outdoor departments that rent equipment will often sell used stuff that is still very usable.

Camp life. What is it going to be like? We will be located approximately 4 miles from the nearest road. Our gear will be horse packed in to Snow Lake and we will SHERPA it to our campsite. It is likely there will be some snow on the ground. We will live in tents and cook all of our food ourselves. If you have any dietary restrictions please tell me on the Food Preference Form so I can plan accordingly. Also send me your favorite recipe and I will try to get the ingredients (keep in mind that we do not have refrigeration and all our gear is carried to our site). There will be no toilets or showers, but we will be near plenty of water. We will cook on propane stoves and our daily lives will revolve around the daylight hours since we will not have electricity. There will be plenty of things to do and explore.

If you play a musical instrument (of a size class smaller than the tuba or piano) bring it along. If you are like me and can't remember the words to current songs, bring along a song book or the words to your favorite tunes. We want to get away from the hustle of everyday living and begin to hear ourselves and the winds over the mountains and the water speaking to the rocks. In other words, leave your radio, walkmans, cell phones and beepers at home.

While you travel to Seattle on June 13th, please wear your SCA t-shirt. If you get stuck in transit or are otherwise delayed on the arrival day, call me on my cell phone at 345-456-6789. We will be at the airport before any of you arrive, and will meet you at baggage claim one. Both Athena and I will be wearing an SCA t-shirt just like yours, so you won't miss us. If for any reason you don't see us, just wait at the baggage claim, and we will meet you there soon.

I will send you another letter before the beginning of the program. If you have any questions call me collect at (206) 733-3509. You can send other information to me or my co leader and partner at home:

Frodo Crewleader and Athena Pulaski
206 733-3509 or 567-876-5432
amazingcrewleader@yahoo.com
walk_in_the_woods@gmail.com

Also included in this letter is some suggested reading, a check list of things to do and the Food Preference Form to complete and return to us ASAP. I am looking forward to meeting each of you and getting out there.

Sincerely,

SAMPLE BIOGRAPHY

I imagine you, your parents, grandparents, best friends and great uncles would like to know what kind of crew leaders you will be living with for most the summer. I have the advantage since I have read your applications, but I am still somewhat of a mystery to you. It is my intention here to tell you a little about me.

The SCA program is not new to me. I have taught five summer programs in Colorado, and worked over two years since then full time as a SCA regional coordinator for the southwest. I left the office to return to school where I am now working toward a teaching certificate and eventually a Master's in Environmental Studies/Education. Alaska has been calling me for some time, so I am very, very excited to be living and working at Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

My trail begins in Massachusetts and winds its way to the Rockies where I earned my college degree at the Univ. of Colorado in Geography and Environmental Conservation. I have been touched by the magic of "the west" and have spent all my free time exploring high mountains and desert canyons. It is always tough to choose the method in which one can travel and explore but I prefer hiking boots, kayak, skis, and always the bicycle! I have also chosen to explore on a global scale. While in college I spent a semester on a ship sailing around the world on "Semester at Sea" (earning credit no less!!) and returned to Asia several years later to spend 6 months in Nepal and India.

Love of teaching, the out-of-doors and a deep concern for the environment led me to the Student Conservation Association. I only have one regret - I wish I knew about it when I was a high school student! I look forward to meeting you all.

SAMPLE SECOND LETTER

June 3, 2000

Greetings!

This is the second letter you from us, your crew leaders. We hope you've begun to put together your gear. Also, we strongly urge you to get out walking (in your boots)! Our first day promises to be a rigorous one, so you should have completed at least one long (ten miles or more) walk before the program. By now, you should have started wearing your boots, and we mean WEARING. It does those little pink feet of yours no good to try the boots on for a minute or two. Wear them to school, to prom, to bed and on walks around the neighborhood. We hope that by the middle of July you'll prefer your boots to your slippers.

Enclosed in this packet, in addition to the above admonition regarding foot wear, is a map of the Park, and a checklist of things for you to do before you leave. Be sure to take a look at them.

The MAP: you'll find your home away from home at the north end of Ross Lake, practically on the Canadian Border at Hozameen. We will be camped on the lake at the foot of Little Jack Mountain. We'll be sleeping in tents, cooking over a Coleman gas stove and making our own showers and saunas. Our work projects are all within walking distance of our camp. We'll be doing a variety of projects from putting in fire grills to brushing out vegetation, from doing trail maintenance and restoring and revegetating highly impacted areas. Our work projects will take 24 days, leaving the last four days open for a long backpacking trip in the Pasayten Wilderness (to the east of Ross Lake). Interspersed throughout our work period will be one day trips into the backcountry. You'll need your raingear for working and hiking. The reliability of your sleeping bag and backpack will be especially important for the hikes when we reach higher elevations.

A note on traveling: On your journey out to Seattle, whether it's by bus or train or plane or mule cart, please wear your work clothes, SCA T-shirt and boots, and hand carry your sleeping bag and necessary medications. (Remember to get your bag out of the overhead bin when you deplane). That way, even if United Airlines sends your luggage to Morocco or the Bay of Fundy (yes, it has been known to happen even to SCA volunteers) you will be ready to start the program with us. As long as you have your work clothes, boots and sleeping bag, we can let Greyhound worry about getting your stuff up to Hozameen later.

We briefly touched on what not to bring in the last letter, here is a more detailed list of what not to bring: walkmans (or is it walkmen?), iPods, cell phones, pagers, hair dryers, drugs, cigarettes, alcohol, any aerosol deodorants or bug sprays, wads of money, expensive jewelry, and pets. Also leave behind your Ralph Lauren Polo shirts and anything else that doesn't belong in the wilderness. Remember your clothing and gear will take a beating.

About bugs: the mosquitoes of the Northwest are voracious and they especially like scented flesh. Stop using perfume, cologne, aftershave, and perfumed soap a week before the program begins and the bugs won't like you as much.

Finally, even though I know you have already received this from SCA, here it is again. SCA maintains a 24-hour contact number – 800-967-6449. This is the number your parents to call if they need to get in touch with you during the summer for emergency situations. Your parents should always call SCA to get in touch with you, not the Park.

We look forward to seeing you in less than a month! If you have any questions, please call us. Evenings are best, but you can call Jane at work if you haven't been able to reach us. Athena's work number is 568-859-4256, and of course our home number is 568-448-8547. Or you can email us at amazingcrewleader@yahoo.com.

CHECKLIST FOR MEMBERS

CHECKLIST OF THINGS FOR YOU TO DO

IN PREPARING FOR THE _____ PROGRAM

- Gather all the gear listed on SCA's EQUIPMENT LIST.
- Do a lot of walking, running, swimming, playing sports, or anything else that will get you into top physical condition.
- When you leave home to make the trip to Glacier, wear the SCA T-shirt. Several of you will have similar plane or bus connections, and if you are wearing your shirts, you can recognize one another and perhaps travel together. It will also help me find you once you reach Kalispell or West Glacier.
- As you travel to the park, wear your boots and carry your sleeping bag in your hand. That way, if checked baggage is delayed, you'll still have boots to hike in and a bag for sleeping until the rest of your gear arrives.
- GET EXCITED! You're going to spend 4 weeks in the heart of Glacier National Park with a crew who will become close friends. Find some books in the library and get to know Glacier before you come.



SCA National Crews Food Preference Form

1. What's your favorite meal?
2. What's your least favorite meal?
3. What is your favorite dessert?
4. What are your staples? What do you eat every day?

5. What is your favorite snack (besides fruits and veggies)?

6. Do you have food allergies?

7. Do you have trouble digesting any foods?

8. Do you have specific dietary preferences (such as vegetarian, vegan, pesce-pollotarian, etc)?

9. Are you a big eater or small eater? Do you usually eat twice as much as the teenager next to you? Anything else you'd like us to know about your food habits? We will be buying all of the food before you arrive to the program, so we need to know everything about you now.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR CREW LEADERS ASAP
SAMPLE SCA GEAR LIST

What will I need?

Your SCA program will probably expose you to a variety of weather conditions. The equipment you bring will need to keep you comfortable, warm and mostly dry for your work day, home life in our base camp, and during our backpacking trip. You do not need to spend tons of money on new gear and clothing. You probably already have many of the items listed here. If you need to buy things, there are many good sources for cheap camping gear, including local second hand stores, Salvation Army, Goodwill and Army/Navy surplus stores. You can also try to find gear online. Sometimes campmor.com and sierratradingpost.com have cheap and closeout prices. For the larger items, you should first see if you can borrow things from friends or neighbors. If you can't borrow from them, SCA has a limited amount of backpacks, sleeping bags, and sleeping pads to borrow. You can [email](mailto:hsequipment@thesca.org) us to make the necessary arrangements. Please include your name and the name of the crew you will be joining.

Here is a general list of items that you need to bring with you to your Conservation Crew assignment. Your leaders will be in touch with you if there are more site specific items that you will need. For most SCA programs though, the following list will serve you well.

We provide tents, stoves, cooking gear, an SCA logo T-shirt and other group gear for all of our trips.

Camp Gear and Personal Items, essential for all placements

- Backpack - External or Internal frame. External frames should have an "H" shape frame. Backpacks should have a 3000 to 5000 cubic inch or 65 to 75 liter capacity. Your pack also needs to have a padded waist belt and padded shoulder straps. Remember, you're going to need some leftover room for group gear!
- Sleeping Bag - Synthetic or down-filled bags required. Must be rated to 35 degrees or below. Try to get the smallest and lightest one you can. No rectangular old style camp sleeping bags.
- Sleeping Pad - Closed-cell foam (i.e. Ridge-rest) or self-inflating (i.e. Thermo-rest) pads are great. Air mattresses are heavy, bulky, and not durable. Open-cell foam (i.e. foam egg crates) soak up water and are too bulky.
- Mess Gear- Something to eat out of and with. A plastic bowl or Tupperware container works fine. Fork and spoon.
- Mug - You'll need some kind of unbreakable mug. Inexpensive insulated plastic ones are fine.
- Day Pack- A comfortable pack, with room enough for food and extra clothes. School backpack would work fine.
- Water Bottles - Enough to hold 2 quarts or more. Wide-mouth Nalgene water bottles are nice, and so are Camel-Bak type systems. However, re-used bottled water bottles or canteens will work. No glass, please. Screw-tops are much superior to the squirt-tops, since the squirt-tops leak all over your stuff.
- Sunglasses - Any pair that deflects UV will do. Gas station sunglasses are fine.
- Toilet Kit - As small and compact as you can make it. Biodegradable soap (such as Dr. Bronner's) is required. Toothpaste, toothbrush, brush or comb, razor, tampons or pads, chapstick, shampoo, sunscreen SPF 15 or higher.
- Flashlight or Headlamp - Headlamps are better, since they free up the hands, but they are more expensive.
- Leather work gloves – you must have these, as you will be working in them each day.

If you'd like advice on buying any of these items, ask our SCA Equipment Staff at hsequipment@thesca.org.

Clothing, essential for all placements

- Boots - 1 pair of ALL leather (or Kevlar) boots. Sturdy all leather high top hiking or work boots are required for the program. Leather hiking boots are ideal but leather work boots that come up above the ankle are OK if they are comfortable enough to hike in. Get a good quality, leather boot that is fairly heavy. They must have a lugged rubber

sole, such as Vibram. DO NOT bring any sort of light-weight hiking shoe, or any shoe or boot with Gortex or canvas uppers as your work boots. Brands like Hi-Tech, Asolo, Merrell, and Red Wing frequently have a good all leather boot. Select your boots with care: you will be wearing them all day, every day for four or five weeks! And whether old or new, start wearing your boots regularly now to break them in and toughen your feet before the program begins.

- Tennis Shoes and or Sandals - Great to slip on after a day of hiking or working, especially if your boots are wet. Remember, you have to have some sort of footwear on if you want to go swimming!
- Rain Gear - Top and Bottom. Regardless of your location, it's likely to rain. Better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it. Make sure it is durable enough to work in. No ponchos please.
- Wool or Fleece Socks - They may be a little itchy, but better than frozen feet. We discourage cotton because of the uselessness when wet. Enough for a week; four to seven pairs.
- Shorts - Not for the worksite, but nice in the afternoons or on the recreation trip. One or two pairs.
- Swim Suit - Very nice to have if it's the right season and you have the opportunity to go swimming.
- Underwear – pack enough for a about a week, you can wash laundry as necessary.

Clothing, for hotter or more humid climates only

- Work pants – light weight but durable. Khakis or Dickies work great. If you have zip off style pants, keep in mind that they tend to be less durable. Jeans will also work, but will be less comfortable in hot climates. About three pairs.
- T-shirts – about four or five, including you SCA logo shirt. This will be what you work in. You can also replace one or two of the shirts for a light weight button up shirt for sun protection.
- Long underwear – light weight but preferably not cotton. For the chilly evenings, or bug protection.
- Jacket / sweater – a mid weight windproof fleece or sweater is enough for chilly evenings or rainy days.

A note for the hotter climates: You will most likely have less fluctuation of temperatures during the day, so you won't need to worry about layering as much as in colder climates. You will find that your warmer clothes may be used more for bug protection. You will still want to layer, but they will be lighter layers. Don't forget to pack light!

Clothing, for colder, higher elevation or more rainy climates only

- Work pants – heavy weight pants like carharts are great. Jeans will also work. About three pairs.
- T-shirts – about four or five, including you SCA logo shirt. This will be what you work in.
- Long sleeved t-shirts – good for working in if it's cold. Bring less t-shirts if you go with long sleeved shirts.
- Long underwear – mid to heavy weight. Good for sleeping in, or wearing under shorts for camp clothes. No cotton, it doesn't hold heat as well, and is useless wet. Wool, poly-propylene or capaline are great materials.
- Jacket – warm mid to heavy weight fleece jacket or wool sweater, wind proof. Make sure you can layer with it.
- Wool hat – keeping your head warm is essential to keeping the rest of your body warm.
- Wool gloves – Could be really nice in the colder climates.

A note on layering: It's possible that your climate will be changing a lot through out the day, and you want to have enough items that you can layer. It could go from 35 degrees at night to upper 80's to 90's in the day. You may be comfortable in pants and a t-shirt while working, while lounging around camp can get pretty chilly. Keep this in mind while packing. Pack light, but wisely. A lot of items can have multiple uses.

Nice to have around

- Bandanas - Useful for all sorts of reasons, bring a few!
- Sun hat or baseball cap – Could be nice if you normally wear them, but not necessary unless you have a desert program. Keep in mind that while working you will be wearing a hard hat.
- Sleeping Clothes - Something dry and clean to wear at night.
- Swiss Army Knife or Leatherman - You'd be amazed how often these come in handy. No sheath knives, please.
- Journal or Book - Write or read the Great American Novel!
- Towel - Try to get a camp towel, failing that, a small towel.
- Pack straps – can be very helpful for tying on gear to your pack, or making an impromptu belt.
- Rope – not essential, but can be useful around camp
- Nylon stuff sacks – great for organizing small items, or keeping your dirty clothes separate from clean clothes.
- Sewing Kit - Nice for impromptu repairs of equipment.
- Camera - Capture those priceless SCA moments
- Camp Chair - Compact model, such as "Therma-lounger" or "Crazy Creek." Very unnecessary but nice.
- Musical instruments – you will want to check with your crew leaders before bringing larger instruments on your program
- Small games like playing cards or a frisbee - can be really fun to share with the group.
- Fishing tackle – check with your leaders first. To see if there will be an opportunity to fish.
- Hammock
- Money - We'll feed you, but you may want to bring money to buy personal items on those rare occasions when you will be near a store. \$50 to \$100.
- Extra pair of clean clothes for traveling home – You may not have an opportunity to do laundry before heading home, and it's nice to have something clean to wear on the plane.