

Beyond the Ten Essentials

10 Things your Scout Needs at Camp Oljato

Below is a list of must-have items to ensure a great Oljato experience for your scout.

1. **Scout Uniform** – Oljato requires all scouts and adults be in scout uniform for meals. Anyone not in uniform is not admitted into the dining hall. Uniforms are not available for purchase at camp. For this reason, uniforms are required to be worn and will be checked prior to boarding the camp bus in Palo Alto.

Please ensure your scout has:

- BSA Class A Uniform (shirt, pants, kerchief, belt, socks),
- Troop 57 fleece
- Troop 57 t-shirt

2. **Sleeping bag** – Essential at Oljato. Most boys already have one but make sure it's warm enough for sleeping outside! Even during summer, nights at high-elevation can be bitter-cold.

3. **Backpack** - A proper camping backpack is needed. It should be large enough to fit a sleeping bag, bed roll, tent, ten essentials, change of clothes and a mess kit, or at least have a way to strap some of these onto it. A school backpack or rolling suitcase isn't going to work. Try to get a 40+ liter pack that fits your son and isn't too much taller or heavier than he is. REI or Sierra Trading Post have good selections and knowledgeable staff to help. You could consider buying a used backpack because if your son is a first year now, he will nearly double in size in two years.

4. **Water Bottle** – all scouts are required to carry a water bottle at all times. 1 liter Nalgene bottles are very popular. A caribiner can be used to carry on a belt loop.

5. **Hiking boots** – It is highly recommended that you buy your son a good pair of hiking boots and that he wear them between now and camp to break them in. Size them to accommodate wearing two pair of socks – a liner and a wool pair. This will prevent blisters. You can buy these used, too. REI has great used gear sales in the summer.

6. **Lights** –Your scout will be walking from his tent to organized activities around Oljato after nightfall. Paths are well maintained but not lighted. A good headlamp provides ample lighting to navigate the camp while also providing hands-free mobility. A small tent lamp is also useful for illuminating the tent after dark. An additional flashlight can be useful but is not essential.

7. **Sun protection** – Ample sunshine, water and altitude mean lots of sun exposure. Sun lotion, sunglasses, lip balm and a brim hat are all essential. Lip balm usually sells out at the camp store so be sure to pack a spare.

8. **Closed-toed water shoes** are required at the Camp Oljato Waterfront. Keen water sandals are fantastic; they feel like slippers, act like hiking boots, and are great in the

water. They also cost \$100 and I can't find them for less. Perhaps an old pair of tennis shoes would work. Remember: Closed-toe mandatory.

9. **Tent** –Tents are provided for all scouts while at Oljato. These are A-frame canvas types built on wooden platforms. Scouts will need their own tents on the weekend hike. Your son can share a tent with a Scout who already has one, but if you're eager to get him his own tent, keep in mind that he will be carrying it on his back, so weight is a key factor. Since Scouts are required to sleep 2 to a tent, internal space is important, too. Two Scouts that share a tent may also split the weight of carrying it. Many Scouts prefer dome tents for ease of set-up.

10. **Warm clothes** – Evenings at altitude can be cold. A warm hat to sleep in and a warm jacket for evening activities (in addition to the T57 fleece) are recommended. There is a very popular tour of the night sky aboard boats offered during each week of camp. The views are amazing but the temperatures are cold. Having a warm jacket for this trip is a good idea.