

RESOURCES for BACKPACKING ~ GEAR • LOCAL

Appalachian Outfitters • <https://www.appalachianoutfitters.com> • 60 Kendall Park Rd, Peninsula, OH 44264 > top of hill from Camp Manatoc, near entrance to Cuyahoga Valley National Park

- Workshops to prepare Scouts for Philmont
- 10% discount for any registered Scout/Scouter

Backpackers Shop @ Ohio Canoe • <http://www.backpackersshop.com> • 5128 Colorado Ave (Rte 611) Sheffield Village OH 44054 > Rte 611 N of I-90

- Bigger selection of clothes than gear
- Returns only for store credit

REI (Recreational Equipment Inc) • <https://www.rei.com> • 411 Park Ave, Suite 143, Beachwood OH 44122 > Harvard Ave Exit E of I-271

- EVERYTHING for human-powered adventure > *walk-the-talk* expert sales force
- If not available in store, order online while browsing
- Gear **RENTAL** to try with personal instruction
- Gear packages to outfit a Troop
- Workshops
- Frequent SALES for members
- 10% discount for groups
- 10% annual dividend on all purchases for REI members

Scout Shops • <http://www.scoutstuff.org> • 2241 Woodland Ave, Cleveland OH 44115 (also @ Firelands)

- Basic gear at competitive prices
- Special order for other items
- Thorlo hiking socks
- SALES & Lifetime WARRANTY on all gear

Borrow

- Many troops will lend gear to get another unit on the trail
- Contact Pat O'Leary: PHOBSA@att.net

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RESOURCES for BACKPACKING ~ GEAR • ONLINE

REI (Recreational Equipment Inc) • <https://www.rei.com>

- VERY user-friendly website allows COMPARISON between similar items with full details
- Carry all brands + Print and video tutorials assist correct gear selection, use and repair
- Frequent SALES + 10% annual dividend for REI members on all purchases

Cabela's • <https://www.cabelas.com>

- Clothing & equipment for car campers, hunters, fishers

Campmor • <https://www.campmor.com>

- Wide selection, fast service, low prices, SALES

Hiker Direct • <http://sur.ly/o/hikerdirect.com/AA000014>

- Bargains on manufacturer's close-outs & discontinued models

L.L.Bean • <https://www.llbean.com>

- Excellent house labels, 100% guarantee
- Better for clothing & luggage than backpacking gear

General Advice • Pat O'Leary (wilderness mountain guide 20 yrs., international mountaineer)

You get what you pay for. Price is irrelevant if the gear isn't designed for what nature can throw at you ... and lives are at risk. Purchase the quality consistent with expected situations. Troop gear needs to be rugged enough for multiple users and rough treatment. *Cheap* gear is more expensive because it has to be replaced more frequently. Shop at a BACKPACKING store (not a sporting goods store) that doesn't pressure buying, has people who USE the gear and will educate you. Buy troop gear that outfits a PATROL for high adventure (not car camping). Backpacking gear is light-weight, compact, rugged and can be used ANYWHERE.

RESOURCES for BACKPACKING ~ SPECIFIC ITEMS

MSR (Mountain Safety Research) Stoves & Cooksets • <https://www.msrgear.com>

- Whisperlite (\$90) is excellent liquid fuel stove for multi-use in any weather or altitude
<https://www.msrgear.com/stoves/whisperlite>
- PocketRocket 2 (\$45) is versatile canister fuel stove better suited for small groups
<https://www.msrgear.com/stoves/pocketrocket-2>
- Alpine 2 or 4 Cookset (\$50/\$80) multiple pots, frying pan, rugged stainless steel, compact & light-weight
<https://www.msrgear.com/cookware/alpine-2-pot>
<https://www.msrgear.com/cookware/alpine-4-pot-set>
- Fuel Use Comparison Chart <http://outdoorlink.com.au/view-pdf/view/MSR-stove-comparison>

Eureka Tents • suitable for most troop needs, including high adventure

- GOOGLE for website and then *tents* then *backpacking tents*
- Excellent prices and good quality (\$100-\$300)

REI (Recreational Equipment Inc) • <https://www.rei.com>

- Over 170 different models from 13 different manufacturers
- 2-person models best for backpacking troops
- Sale prices from \$80 up

Sleeping Bags, Pads, Backpacks • study comparison charts

- *Backpacker Magazine* is THE source of up-to-date gear recommendations from the field
<https://www.backpacker.com>
- REI <https://www.rei.com> provides exceptionally clear comparison charts to compare features between brands
- REI <https://www.rei.com> has numerous print and video instructions to help navigate a bewildering array of choices

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RESOURCES for BACKPACKING ~ TRAILS

Backpacker Magazine • <https://www.backpacker.com>

- Local trails, downloadable maps, GPS
- Photos to motivate your choices

Backpacking Stores • REI & Appalachian Outfitters

- Ask at desk for someone knowledgeable of local trails
- Guidebooks & maps to various local regions help with planning
- USGS quads may be available in the store for many trails

Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail • SW PA ~ 4 hr drive • <https://www.laurelhighlands.org/listing/laurel-highlands-hiking-trail/565/>

- Great starter trail with easy terrain, shelters, firewood, pump water, latrine • reservations required
- Either shuttle cars or retrace steps on ridge-line trail

Allegheny National Forest • NW PA ~ 4 hr drive •

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/allegheny/recreation/hiking/?recid=6083&actid=51>

- Tracy Ridge • <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/allegheny/recarea/?recid=6138>
- Moderate trail with lots of possibilities in heavily wooded mountains
- Great campsites at the edge of the reservoir • no reservations needed

Appalachian Mountain Club • <https://www.outdoors.org>

- Trail Guidebooks, maps, current info on eastern mountains
- Plan Appalachian Trail trip using huts in White Mountains & shelters elsewhere

USGS (United States Geological Survey) • <https://www.usgs.gov/products/maps/topo-maps>

- Topographical maps (7.5 min. quadrangles are THE standard for any area you want to hike)
- Topos are essential to planning trips into any area, even with *supposedly* well-marked trails