Camping Checklist

A complete tent camping checklist covering shelter, sleep system, cooking gear, clothing, tools and safety essentials.

Shelter

- [ ] Tent with poles, stakes, and guy lines
- [ ] Footprint or ground tarp
  Tuck edges underneath the tent floor so collecting rainwater does not pool underneath you.
- [ ] Rainfly and extra stakes
- [ ] Mallet for driving stakes
- [ ] Repair tape or a patch kit
  Tenacious-style tape and a pole splint sleeve fix most tears and cracked poles in the field.
- [ ] Doormat or small tarp for the entrance

Sleep System

- [ ] Sleeping bag rated for the expected low temperature
- [ ] Sleeping pad or air mattress
- [ ] Pillow or stuff sack to use as one
- [ ] Extra blanket for cold nights
- [ ] Pump if your mattress needs one

Camp Kitchen

- [ ] Camp stove with fuel
- [ ] Lighter, matches, and fire starters
- [ ] Pot, pan, and cooking utensils
- [ ] Plates, bowls, cups, and reusable cutlery
- [ ] Cooler with ice for perishables
  Pre-chill your cooler before packing and keep food in watertight containers to prevent soggy meals.
- [ ] Biodegradable soap, sponge, and a wash basin
- [ ] Trash bags and sealed containers for food storage
  Lock scented items and waste in your vehicle or bear canister overnight to keep animals away.

Clothing

- [ ] Moisture-wicking base layers
- [ ] Insulating layer like a fleece or down jacket
- [ ] Waterproof rain jacket
- [ ] Sturdy shoes or hiking boots and camp sandals
- [ ] Warm hat, gloves, and extra socks
- [ ] Quick-dry pants and shirts
- [ ] Sleepwear set aside just for the tent
  Keep sleeping clothes dry and odor-free by changing out of daytime clothes before entering the tent.

Lighting and Tools

- [ ] Headlamp and a backup flashlight
- [ ] Extra batteries
- [ ] Lantern for the campsite
- [ ] Multi-tool or knife
- [ ] Paracord or rope
- [ ] Duct tape and zip ties

Food, Water, and Hygiene

- [ ] Drinking water (about one gallon per person per day)
  Accounts for drinking, cooking, and basic hygiene. Bring extra in hot weather or dry terrain.
- [ ] Water filter or purification tablets as backup
- [ ] Planned meals and snacks
- [ ] Toilet paper and a trowel for cat holes
- [ ] Toothbrush, soap, and toiletries
- [ ] Hand sanitizer and wet wipes

Safety and Essentials

- [ ] First-aid kit
- [ ] Insect repellent and sunscreen
- [ ] Map, compass, or GPS
- [ ] Fully charged phone and a power bank
- [ ] Whistle and emergency contact info
- [ ] Check the weather and conditions and share your plan
  Tell someone your route and expected return time.