

Kayak Oceanography Packing List

Updated February 28, 2020

Students will provide certain personal gear items for the class. Opportunities for personal gear purchase are limited in Juneau, so students coming in from outside should consider bringing all personal gear with them. I am always available to discuss gear questions or problems (or any other course-related questions or problems!) Drop me a line at gdwright@alaska.edu.

| Item | Optional/ Recommended | Notes |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| Sleeping bag | | 20° synthetic sleeping bag recommended |
| Sleeping pad | | Foam pad or inflatable mattress (like a therm-a-rest) |
| Headlamp | | |
| Sleeping clothes | | I like a base layer—fleece/polypro top and bottoms, socks, and a warm hat. Something to cover your eyes with (bandana, buff) can be nice for blocking out light in bright Alaska summer nights. Avoid cotton fabric. |
| Water bottle--1L | | |
| Insulating mid-layer: like a fleece shirt | | |
| Rain jacket | | Functioning raingear in SE Alaska is critical--if you're not 100% sure your raingear is waterproof, this is a worthwhile purchase. I often prefer inexpensive rubber raingear for kayaking to more expensive Gore Tex, so if you don't have great raingear, you can find something in Juneau relatively inexpensively. I like the lightweight Helly-Hansen Impertech (lightweight rubber) jackets and pants/bibs. Locally, Western Auto is the place for rubber raingear. |
| Rain pants | | |
| Camp boots or shoes | | I often wear Xtratufs (rubber boots), though water shoes or sandals (like tevas/chacos) are okay. Sandals will leave you exposed if it's buggy. I don't recommend flip flops as your only camp shoes. |
| Warm jacket, like a puffy jacket, polyfill, not down | | |
| Long johns, not cotton (2 pr.) | | |
| T-shirts, polyester etc., not cotton (2) | | |
| Long sleeve shirt | | No cotton |
| Pants | | Avoid cotton here too, if you can. Fleece pants can be really nice if it's cool; fleece pajama bottoms can be great for under a drysuit during the day. |
| Socks (2-3 pr.) | | No cotton—I like wool because it's less stinky, but synthetic socks are ok too. |
| Lighter | | |

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Matches | | Packed in a waterproof bottle (I use a small pill bottle) |
| Spoon | | One that won't break. I prefer metal, recommend against disposable plastic. |
| Bandana | | To clean your bowl, cup, spoon. Optional but nice. |
| Cup | | |
| Bowl | | Maybe optional if you like eating everything out of a cup. I sometimes skip the bowl and bring a thermos (see below) |
| Thermos or second water bottle | | I actually carry two thermoses/vacuum bottles--one is for coffee and one is a soup thermos for keeping food warm |
| Sunglasses | | Critical |
| Toothbrush | | |
| Toothpaste | | Travel size is best |
| Floss | | Optional of course until you're 40 and your dentist tells you it's not. |
| Soap | | |
| Wet wipes/hand sanitizer | | |
| Toilet paper | | Probably better to save up a couple of half-rolls, which are easier to pack. |
| Cap/hat | | I suggest carrying a warm hat and a sun hat |
| Drybags | Recommended | The ODS program can provide dry bags, but we never have enough to go around. I recommend buying one or two 5 liter drybags and one 10 liter drybag to keep your personal gear in. Northwest Rafting Supplies (nrs.com, Dri-stow or Tuff sack lines are good) or SealLine (available through REI, Amazon and other places—"Discovery" or "Baja" line) are good, durable options. |
| Paddling gloves | Recommended | The ODS program has some paddling gloves to lend, but I much prefer the inexpensive neoprene gloves available at Western Auto, Fred Meyer, and a bunch of other places around Juneau. Out-of-towners may want to wait until they get to Juneau to buy paddling gloves. |
| Tent stuff | Optional | Other items for tent--contact lenses, contact solution, contact lens case, glasses, earplugs, etc. Whatever you want at night. A book is nice to have. I usually bring a kindle. |
| Fishing rod | Optional | |
| Fishing gear | Optional | If you want to fish, make sure you have a license |
| Handkerchief | Optional | Not optional if, like me, you're a hobbit. |
| Camera | Optional | If you plan to use your phone, make sure you have a way to keep it dry and above the water! |