



Canada West Mountain School - www.themountainschool.com

MOUNTAINEERING COURSE EQUIPMENT LIST

Basic personal equipment

- Boots:** Mountaineering or *sturdy* backpacking boots (See article on [How to choose your mountaineering boots](#))
- Crampons:** General mountaineering crampons. Ensure they are adjusted properly to your boots before the trip.
- Backpack:** An internal frame backpack with a capacity of 60-80 litres will allow you to carry all your gear.
- Daypack:** *Optional*, you can use your backpack for daytrips; or bring a *lightweight* daypack of 30 liters minimum
- Outerwear jacket:** An outer layer waterproof/breathable shell with hood (Gore-tex, etc.). Non-insulated is best.
- Outerwear pants:** waterproof/breathable shell, **non-insulated**. Full zips are ideal for venting and ease of on/off with boots on
- Personal clothing layers:** layering works well, no cotton. Below is a suggested guideline, personal preference will affect choices.
 - Base layer for top and bottom
 - mid-weight softshell synthetic climbing/hiking pants
 - lightweight sweater/mid layer for top
 - Softshell jacket (fleece, windstopper, etc.)
 - Insulated jacket with hood, synthetic or down. Weight depends on temperatures and weather conditions
 - 2 pairs socks & 2 pairs underwear, or as required based on personal systems
- Gloves:** warm mountaineering or ski gloves with removable liners. Bring 1pair, plus 1 pair extra liners, or 2 pair of gloves.
- Gaiters:** ensure they fit over your mountaineering boots
- Toque/warm hat:** wool or fleece
- Hat with sun visor:** baseball cap, etc.
- Sunglasses:** must have 100% UV blockage and ideally provide full protection with wrap-around style, or side shields
- Ski goggles:** *optional*, useful if there is a snowstorm or if it is very windy
- Headlamp:** small size with extra batteries
- Water bottle/hydration system:** 1 litre minimum, 2 litres is ideal. For hydration/hose systems consider insulated hoses to reduce freezing
- Compass:** See Compass Essentials - <https://classroom.themountainschool.com/course/compass-use-and-selection>
- Map, GPS, or a phone with GPS app:** Many free GPS apps exist. Contact your Guide/CWMS Office for map details in advance
- Lightweight camp shoes:** *Optional*, yet nice for around camp after a day in the mountain boots
- Knife:** Small folding style knife or multi-tool
- Personal kit:** (toothbrush, toilet paper, foot-care supplies, personal 1st Aid kit, etc.) Keep kit to a minimum and bring *only* essentials
- Sunscreen and lip care:** Minimum 30 spf
- Insect repellent:** pack in plastic bag and keep separate from climbing gear and ropes. Some alpine course areas can be very buggy!
- Note pad and pencil:** *optional*
- Hiking pole(s) with baskets for snow:** *Optional*, useful for the approach and descent to/from your base camp

Camping Equipment

- Sleeping bag:** Synthetic or Down, rated to at least -5 degrees Celsius (unless current conditions require a colder rating)
- Sleeping pad:** Thermo-rest style inflatable, or closed cell foam (Ensolite style)
- Eating utensils:** cup, bowl, spoon
- Food as required:** Please consult with your Guide/CWMS Office staff in advance if you need assistance in planning
- Animal-resistant food storage:** Ursack-style bag is recommended for safe food storage. **Available to rent from CWMS in advance**
- Tent:** as necessary based on your tent-group size; suitable for 3 season or 4 season conditions.
- Gas stove w/cooking pot:** include adequate fuel for the trip; matches/lighter; stove-specific repair items; small platform/base if on snow
- Water purification:** Chemical purification, mechanical filter, or UV filter system.

Technical Equipment Please let your Guide/CWMS office know in advance if you require any of the following:

- Ice Axe:** General Mountaineering ax, approx. range of 60-70 cms length, may be shorter.
- Climbing seat harness:** CE approved climbing harness
- Climbing Helmets:** CE approved climbing helmet
- Carabiners:** 3 locking and 2 non-locking
- Belay device (1):** ideally a device that can be used for descending and belaying such as a Black Diamond "ATC"
- 7mm accessory cord (for Prussik loops):** 2 x 5 metre lengths, and 1 x 1.75 metre length; used for rope rescue and personal climbing systems
- Sewn webbing climbing sling (120 cm, full strength of 20+ kN's):** Used for personal climbing systems and anchors

Please discuss this list with your Guide/Instructor, or with our office staff in advance, to make sure you are prepared for the field session. If you **need to purchase or rent equipment**, make sure to contact stores well in advance to ensure that what you require is available!