

Hiking Club at CU • Car Camping List

This list is intended for camping with easy access to a car, so gear weight and space are less of a concern. Our list also assumes you will be day hiking while camping, so we include hiking gear as well.

CLOTHING	TOILETRIES	GEAR	SLEEP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long pants • Shorts (or zip-off pants) • Long underwear • Short-sleeved shirt • Long-sleeved shirt • Lightweight sun hoodie • Down jacket • Rain jacket • Hiking socks • Hiking boots • Sandals • Sun hat • Warm beanie • Warm gloves • Face mask (cold / wind) • Multiple layers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small pack towel • Toothbrush • Toothpaste • Floss • Hairbrush • Biodegradable shampoo • Biodegradable soap • Sunscreen • Lip balm • Toilet paper • Trowel • WAG bag • Hand sanitizer • Deodorant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day pack + rain cover • Water bottle / reservoir • Headlamp + batteries • Lantern • Phone + charging cable • Portable power bank • Sunglasses • Maps • Paracord • Duct tape • Carabiners • Bungee cords • Camera + batteries • Pocket knife / multi-tool • Dry bag / stuff sack • Camping chair + table • Car top carrier • Leveling ramp • Spare tire + other tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleeping bag • Sleeping bag liner • Sleeping pad + patch kit • Compression sack • Blindfold • Earplugs • Pillow • Tent + footprint • Bug screen for window
COOKING	FOOD	FIRST AID	MISC.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger stove + fuel • Lighter / matches • Cookware + utensils • Cutting board • Bowl / plate • Mug / cup • Trash bags • Dish towel • Dish scrubber • Dish soap • Cooler • Large water jugs • Wash basin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meals: anything • Coffee or tea • Trail mix • Jerky • Dried fruit • Granola / energy bars • Instant oatmeal • Salt + spices • Sweets • Other snacks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moleskin • Insect repellent • Anti-itch ointment • Antiseptic wipes • Liquid bandage • Antihistamines • Acetaminophen (Tylenol) • Loperamide (Imodium) • Ibuprofen (Advil) • Pepto Bismol • Electrolyte tablets • SAM splint • Assorted bandages • Pressure bandage • Medical tape • Clotting gauze • Emergency Blanket • Tourniquet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Deck of cards • Other games • GPS device • Drawers / bins for stuff

Car Camping Tips

- Bring quick-dry clothing. Fabrics like cotton take much longer to dry out when wet. This applies to rain and sweat. You can bring multiple pairs if you have the space.
- Restrooms may be available, but you should still bring your own toiletries. When using a trowel to dispose of waste, dig a hole at least 6 inches deep and make sure to cover it back up.
- Reapply sunscreen throughout the day to avoid burning, especially at high elevations where the atmosphere is thinner and provides less sun protection.
- Official campsites often have large metal boxes to keep your food safe from animals. Storing food in your car is often not a concern in Colorado, but do this at your own risk. A bear can easily break into your car to get some food.
- Tents are good to have, but not necessary if you sleep in your car.
- In addition to food, you should also put toothpaste, deodorant, trash, and all other scented substances in safe storage areas. Bears and other critters have a much better sense of smell than you do, so keep that in mind.
- If you are expecting significant rain, do not wear waterproof boots. They will eventually get soaked, but will be nearly impossible to dry out. Instead, opt for ventilated boots or trail runners. Waterproof boots are better for mud, shallow water, and light rain.
- Pack multiple layers of clothing, rather than a few large options. Hiking heats you up, but wind and elevation cools you down, so be prepared to take layers on and off as you go.
- Please use biodegradable soap if you plan to wash yourself or dishes. Regular soap is harmful for the environment because there is no sewage treatment.
- There are many types of water filters, each with their pros and cons. You can find lots of info about them online, so make sure to pack one that suits your needs.
- Sleeping bag liners are usually not necessary, but if you think the conditions will be colder than your sleeping bag is rated, then it's an easy way to add warmth without buying a new bag. Keep in mind that however much warmth the liner says it will add (like 10°F), expect it to realistically add half of that.
- Get some sort of fine-mesh screen that you can place over an open window in your car. This way you can keep bugs out while allowing airflow when sleeping.
- Since you have more space than when backpacking, you can store any food you'd like in a cooler, and cook with a larger stove.
- Small leveling ramps can be good for making your car flat on uneven terrain. These aren't necessary, but can help you be on a level surface while sleeping in your car.
- We suggest getting a pre-packaged first aid kit and adding whatever items from our list are not included. These kits give you a good start, and help keep everything organized.
- Large water jugs can be refilled at most grocery stores. Ice can also be purchased for the jugs and your cooler.
- Know the limitations of your car. Some dirt roads can be hard to access, and you don't want to get stuck (especially when out of cell service).