

Being Prepared

Being prepared is essential for your comfort, health, and safety on Passages. Since 1985, thousands of students have participated in Passages, and we have refined our equipment list to include only the essentials. Bring only the items on this list and you will be prepared for nearly any situation you may encounter.

This list reflects many factors, including weather, safety, and practicality. Please bring, rent, or borrow all required items. Brand names are not expected, and you do not need to purchase equipment unless you plan to use it again. Look for substitutions using items you already own, borrow from friends or family, or shop secondhand. Items marked with an asterisk (*) are available to rent at the listed prices.

Dressing for Pacific Northwest Weather and Canoeing

In late August, weather in Western Washington can vary widely. Daytime temperatures may range from the mid-50s to over 90°F, while nighttime temperatures can drop into the 30s or 40s depending on location. Although August is typically the driest month in the Northwest, rain and changing conditions on the Puget Sound are still common on Passages trips.

Dress in layers to adapt to changing conditions. Wool and synthetic fabrics are recommended because they insulate when wet and dry quickly. Avoid cotton for clothing you plan to paddle in, especially jeans, as cotton dries slowly and increases the risk of hypothermia when wet.

You'll spend significant portions of each day on the water in direct sunlight so keep sun protection in mind!

Before purchasing new clothing or gear, consider whether you will use it again. Borrowing, shopping secondhand, and using items you already own are encouraged. Passages is not a fashion or equipment contest and your gear only needs to keep you warm and dry.

To save space, it is common to reuse clothing for multiple days. Plan for 1-2 sets of paddling clothes and 1 set of camp/sleeping clothes. Your Passages leader will help you review your gear before your trip.

Group Equipment

Passages provides all group equipment, including food, snacks, tents/tarps, stoves, cooking supplies, first-aid kits, the canoe, paddles, life jackets/PFDs, and other shared gear. Students do not need to bring knives, tools, matches, or first-aid supplies.

You are responsible only for the personal equipment listed on the following page. You may bring additional snacks if desired, but please be mindful of food allergies and sensitivities within your group.

Additional Considerations

Pack light! You must bring all required items, but space is limited in the boat so please avoid any unnecessary personal items.

There will be a required equipment check and first meeting Saturday evening the day after move-in. Bring all of your equipment to this meeting as you will review your gear and packing plan with your Passages Leaders.

Questions? Contact the Passages office at 253.879.3317 or passages@pugetsound.edu.

Footwear

- ❑ **Paddling footwear** – Sturdy sandals with a heel strap (e.g., Tevas, Chacos, Keens) or closed-toe water shoes suitable for launching, landing, and walking on rocky beaches. Flip-flops are not permitted.
- ❑ **Camp shoes** – Comfortable, lightweight, closed-toed shoes for use around camp. We recommend old sneakers or similar footwear. You may go on short hikes near camp.
- ❑ **Socks** – 1-2 pairs of medium-weight synthetic socks. Do not bring cotton socks as they retain moisture and cause blisters.

Camping Equipment

- ❑ **Backpack, duffel bag, or *dry bag** – To carry your clothes and personal items. Please do not bring a suitcase as it won't fit in the boat. You can line a bag with a large, heavy-duty trash bag to make it water resistant. A limited number of dry bags are available to rent. Rental fee: 35L - \$20, 15L - \$10
- ❑ ***Sleeping bag** – Rated to at least 30°F. A synthetic-fill sleeping bag is highly encouraged due to the possibility of wet conditions. Mummy-style bags are recommended because their close-fitting design helps retain body heat while reducing weight and bulk. Rental fee: \$22.
- ❑ ***Sleeping pad** – Closed-cell foam or inflatable sleeping pad. Provides insulation from the ground and adds comfort while sleeping. Rental fee (foam pad): \$3
- ❑ **Water bottles (2)** – One-liter capacity each. No glass or ceramic.
- ❑ **Bowl, spoon, and mug** – Durable, reusable bowl, spoon, and mug. No glass or ceramic.
- ❑ **Headlamp or flashlight**
- ❑ **Towel** – Pack towels work great, but are not required

Clothing

Base/Wicking Layer

The base layer moves moisture away from your skin to keep you comfortable.

- ❑ **Synthetic T-shirt (1-2)** – Short or long sleeve. A sun shirt is also great for being on the water.
- ❑ **Synthetic Shorts/Pants or Swimsuit (1-2)**
- ❑ **Underwear**
- ❑ **Long underwear tops and bottoms** – Warmth at night

Middle Layer

The middle layer provides insulation to keep you warm, especially once you're off the water.

- ❑ **Midweight top, wool or synthetic sweater/jacket, down or synthetic insulated jacket (1-2)**
- ❑ **Sweatpants or fleece pants**

Outer/Shell Layer

The outer layer protects against wind and rain.

- ❑ **Rain jacket and pants**

Head and Hands

Provide additional warmth and/or sun protection.

- ❑ **Knit hat or beanie**
- ❑ **Sun Hat** – Wide-brimmed hat or baseball cap
- ❑ **Gloves or Mittens**

Toiletries and Personal Care Items

Scented items such as deodorant, perfume, soap, and other fragrances are discouraged because they can attract animals. Not all campgrounds will have running water or showers. Passages leaders will provide soap for hand-washing and dish-washing.

- ❑ **Sunscreen** – Water and sweat resistant, 30+ SPF recommended
- ❑ **Lip balm with SPF**
- ❑ **Toothbrush and toothpaste** – Travel size
- ❑ **Menstrual products**
- ❑ **Hand Sanitizer**
- ❑ **Small quick-dry towel or bandana** – Helpful for personal hygiene, wiping sweat, or drying gear
- ❑ **Prescription and/or routine medications**

Additional Items

- ❑ **Sunglasses**
- ❑ **Glasses/Contact lenses** – Contact lens users must bring glasses, extra contacts, and solution
- ❑ **Small backpack or dry bag** – To hold items you may want quick access to while on the boat

Optional Items

- ❑ **Camera**
- ❑ **Journal**
- ❑ **Book**
- ❑ **Insect repellent**
- ❑ **Small waterproof bag or zip-top bags** – For phone, wallet, medications, and other small valuables.
- ❑ **Camping pillow** – Stuffing some clothes into your sleeping bag stuff sack also makes a great makeshift pillow. Regular pillows won't fit and get wet easily.

Do Not Bring the Following

1. Portable radios, cell phones, or sound equipment of any kind, as they detract from the outdoor group experience. (Cell phones left on airplane mode to use as a camera are acceptable.)
2. Alcohol or drugs
3. Firearms
4. Suit cases or hard sided luggage