

## Untitled

### On-person survival gear

- Waterproof matches with loss-prevention lanyard
- Waterproof firestarters with loss-prevention lanyard
- Magnesium firestarter with loss-prevention lanyard
- Sturdy pocket knife with loss-prevention lanyard
- Small backup compass with loss-prevention lanyard
- Whistle with loss-prevention lanyard
- Signal mirror with loss-prevention lanyard

[Click here to learn more about on-person survival gear.](#)

### Land navigation gear

- High-quality baseplate-style compass
- Primary topographic maps of area of operation (waterproofed, overlaid with UTM grid, and stored in heavy-duty, one- or two-gallon, freezer-grade ziplock bags)

See land nav beta on this page

- Backup copies of topographic maps of area of operation highly recommended
- County map of area of operation
- Waterproof notepad or paper
- Pencil
- Ranger pacing beads (optional)
- Roamer UTM coordinate plotter (optional)
- GPS unit (optional)
- Backup batteries for GPS unit; use lithium for long-range or deep-cold use

[Click here to learn more land nav gear for remote, off-trail travel.](#)

### First-aid kit

- Elastic ankle wrap
- Moleskin
- Vaseline

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- Band-Aids
- Waterproof first-aid tape
- Pain relief medication
- Anti-inflammatory medication
- Cold & flu medications
- Small tweezers
- Small scissors
- Powerful, prescription-grade pain killers for long trips (see your Doc)
- Broad-spectrum antibiotic for long trips (see your Doc)

Note: check with your personal physician, dentist, and other trusted medical professionals to determine what items—including prescription medications—you should stock your first-aid kit with.

### Repair kit

- 50 feet of 1/8-inch braided nylon cordage (lashing; repair; difficult, 2-rope bear hangs)
- Small roll of duct tape
- Sewing kit
- Repair kit for stove

### Head gear

- 1 very thin balaclava
- 2 thick hats that can be worn together
- 1 pair of sun glasses
- Protective eyewear for bushwhacking (very important)
- Prescription glasses (spare pair if important)
- Bandana
- Wide-brimmed sun/rain hat

### Upper-body gear

- 3 or 4 thin polypro tops
- 1 thin breathable nylon windshirt

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- 2 1/4-inch thick micro-fiber-insulated or fleece jackets
  - 1 hooded, synthetic-insulated parka (for spring and fall trips)
- Product recommendation: Mountain Hardware Hooded Compressor Jacket

- 1 nylon rain parka (avoid vinyl)

Hand gear

- 1 pair of mitten shells (for spring and fall trips)
- 2 pair of mitten liners (for spring and fall trips)

Lower-body gear

- 1 pair of polypro undershorts
- 1 pair of polypro long underwear
- 1 pair of thin nylon hiking/wind pants with zip-off legs
- 1 pair of 1/4-inch thick micro-fiber-insulated or fleece pants (sidezips are very handy)
- 1 pair of heavy synthetic-insulated overpants with sidezips (for spring and fall trips)

Product recommendation: Mountain Hardware Compressor Pants

- 1 pair of nylon rain pants

Footwear

- 1 pair of sturdy boots (insulated ones best for early spring and late fall trips)
- 3 pair of thick synthetic or wool socks
- 1 or 2 pair of liner socks
- 1 pair of gaiters (to seal boot-pantleg opening against water, mud, and other debris)
- River-fording footwear

Rucksack gear

- 1 large rucksack lined with contractor-grade plastic bag
- Full-coverage raincover

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- waist-belt water bottle parka
- waist-belt snack pouch
- waist-belt map pouch

### Bivouac gear

- Tarp and bivy (or small, lightweight tent)
- Stakes and ropes to rig tarp or tent
- Sleeping bag with appropriate rating
- Sleeping pad (& repair kit if needed)
- Sleeping booties (if needed for early spring and late fall trips)
- Flashlight (small LED type with headstrap recommended)
- Spare battery for flashlight; use lithium for long-range or deep-cold use
- Candle(s)

### Hydration gear

- 2 one-quart durable (Nalgene) water bottles
- 1 two-quart water bladder
- Water purification system (iodine tablets or pump, etc.)
- 1 spare bottle of iodine tablets (even if carrying a pump)

### Ration-heating gear

- Lightweight backpacking stove (include repair kit if needed)

Click [here](#) to learn how to prepare an MSR-type stove, fuel cells, and fuel for fewer problems in the bush

- Fuel for stove (five to six Esbit fuel tabs per day for NATO-type solid-fuel stoves; 5-6 ounces of fuel for liquid-fuel stoves)
- Butane lighter on loss prevention lanyard
- Windscreen for stove
- Fireproof base for stove (use old aluminum pot cover under stove to prevent ground fires that have occurred on several past trips and expeditions)
- Pot
- Lid for pot
- Pot holder

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- Spoon
- Mug
- 50-foot food-hanging rope (use cheap, hard [slippery], 1/8-inch-diameter, poly-rope for heavy loads)

### Hot-weather bug-management gear

- 1 bottle of 100% DEET per week
- 1 spare bottle of 100% DEET
- 1 headnet
- 1 spare headnet
- Several anti-bug smudge coils

[Click here to learn more about managing biting insects.](#)

### Personal items

- Personal medications
- Driver's license
- Passport (for Canadian trips)
- Emergency contact names and phone numbers
- Credit cards
- Cash and travelers checks
- Medical, prescription, and dental insurance cards
- Sunscreen
- Lipbalm with sunblock
- Wrist chronograph
- Paperback book

### Personal hygiene gear

- Toilet paper
- Synthetic pack towel
- Toothbrush
- Toothpowder (or toothpaste)

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Product recommendation: Heavenly Harvest, Inc. Travel-size Country Gent tooth powder

Toothpicks & dental floss

Handcleaner

Vehicle gear

Extra car key on lanyard

Vehicle registration papers

Vehicle insurance papers

Locking gas cap

Heavy-duty battery in good condition

Road map (Michigan 1-800-292-2520; Canada 1-800-268-3736)

County map book for Michigan trips

Spare tire (check pressure!!)

Tire jack and lug nut wrench

Shovel

Windshield scraper and snow brush (winter)

Safety Check--Tire pressure (including spare!)

Safety Check--Tire tread wear

Safety Check--Battery (have condition electronically checked; use new, heavy-duty battery in deep cold)

Safety Check--Wiper blade condition

Safety Check--Wiper fluid (front and rear)

Safety Check--Oil level (check with mechanic about using thinner weight in deep cold as the engine will turn over easier)

Safety Check--Radiator fluid level (make sure the temperature rating is for deep cold)

Safety Check--Transmission fluid level

Safety Check--Headlights, taillights, brakelights, & turn signals

Long jumper cables

Nylon tow strap

Single-bit axe (optional)

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- Bow saw (optional)
- Hi-lift bumper jack (optional)
- Hand-operated winch (optional)
- Pick axe (optional)
- Tire inflation system (optional)
- Battery jump-pack power unit(optional)

[Click here to learn more about vehicle gear for bush driving.](#)