

## Group and personal gear

Tents, backpacks, camp stoves....some outings require specialized equipment. Your outing club may have some of these items already, they may be provided by a third party as part of the trip or the club may need to rent, borrow, or acquire them. It's important for individual outing club members to have good footwear and appropriate clothing too.



At the beginning of each year identify the shared gear available for outings. The ability to get access to tents, a cook stove, snowshoes, XC skis etc. determines the types of trips that an outing club can carry out.

### Group gear can include:

- First aid kit
- Cooking stove/pots/pans/utensils
- Tents/ground cloth
- Sleeping bags
- Backpacks
- Snowshoes
- XC skis/boots/poles
- Tubs or duffle bags for storage
- Mountain bikes/helmets
- Canoes/paddles/life jackets

Often Outing Clubs have limited access to gear. But there are strategies for acquiring, sharing, renting or borrowing gear. Here are some possibilities

- 1) Apply for a grant from Teens to Trails Grants to Clubs to purchase gear
- 2) Find out if you school or another nearby organization has an outdoor gear lending library
- 3) Determine if gear is provided by the venue - sometimes snowshoes, ice skates or XC skis are available for the day to rent or free of charge
- 4) Ask a local business to purchase the gear for the outing club
- 5) Hold a gear drive requesting donations from the local community, outdoor clubs, etc.
- 6) Rent gear for the outing
- 7) Purchase gear from a consignment or thrift store

### In Maine Used Gear is available--lending, purchase and/or rental--from:

- [Katahdin Gear Library](#) (lending)
- [Portland Gear Hub](#) (purchase and rental)
- [Woods and Waters](#), Brunswick (purchase)
- [GearME](#), Freeport (rental)
- [Back 40](#) Cape Elizabeth to Brunswick (rental)

## **Other sources of gently used outdoor gear**

[Craigslist Maine](#) (sporting)

Local gear lending libraries - throughout Maine local libraries and town parks and recreation departments have gear available to borrow (snowshoes are fairly common).

Local Thrift Stores like Goodwill and the Salvation Army (don't overlook churches)!

And in nearby NH [International Mountain Equipment](#), North Conway (consignment and rental)

Call or message on Facebook the gear you are looking for before visiting to find out if it is available or likely to be available.

## **Personal Gear**

Personal gear is important too! Insulated boots in winter and layers of non-cotton clothing and raingear are often essential to preventing hypothermia when it's cold--even more so when rain and wind are added! Take time to discuss personal gear and to find solutions for outing club members that may have difficulty acquiring it.

*Tip: Personal gear is a reason to start with simple outings. It provides the opportunity to discuss personal gear and also gain a sense of whether some students may need assistance acquiring it.*