Having appropriate clothing and equipment for your specific TREK trip is essential for your safety and your comfort. Below is a list of equipment you will need to participate in your Backpacking TREK (which includes Transfer and Pride trips).

When you arrive for your check experience, TREK leaders will check your pack to ensure you have all the necessary items from this list prior to departure. This ensures both your safety, as well as the safety and enjoyment of others in your trip.

For a Backpacking TREK, you’ll be carrying all that you bring on your back. Packing light is key. While your pack may not be full when you arrive on your first day of TREK, you’ll be given additional group gear and food to carry in your pack. That extra space will be filled up quickly!

**A note on packing light:** We have a minimal amount of space in our packs and everything we bring we carry. The list below is what we find to be most helpful when packing for a week-long backpacking trip without being too minimal or having too much.

**CLOTHING**

A requirement for most of the clothing listed here is that it is not made from cotton. While cotton is affordable and comfortable, when it rains, cotton absorbs a lot of water (making it very heavy), it doesn’t dry quickly (keeping you wet and cold longer) and the fibers compress (reducing its ability to keep you warm). Wool and many synthetic fibers don’t absorb a lot of water, dry quickly, and maintain their ‘loft’ when they get wet. Hence, the specificity here for cotton vs. non-cotton.

- 1 ~15-liter stuff sack to contain clothes (and become your pillow!)
- 1 set of non-cotton long underwear tops / bottoms – Synthetic or wool (no cotton) – think Under Armour or similar.
- 2 quick dry t-shirts (no cotton)
- 1 cotton t-shirt (optional) – Some find comforting to change into a cotton t-shirt once in camp if the weather is nice.
- **2 pairs of quick dry/athletic shorts (no cotton)** – These should be comfortable and not restrictive to hike in all day long.

- **1 pair hiking pants (optional)** – Also great option for hiking and does well as bug protection.

- **1 windbreaker jacket (optional)** - These layers are great for windy but sunny summits to break up the cold.

- **1 waterproof rain jacket** – The best test for waterproofing is to hold the material up to your mouth and try to suck air through it. If you can’t get any air through, it’s for certain waterproof...though some fancier jackets are both breathable and waterproof.

- **1 pair waterproof rain pants**

- **2-3 pairs wool / synthetic fiber socks (no cotton)**

- **Fleece/or lightweight synthetic down jacket** – Consider synthetic down because we live in a wet part of the world and once goose down gets wet it doesn’t keep you warm.

- **2 - 4 pairs underwear** - However many you need for a week’s worth of living outdoors – we’re not here to judge!

- **1 light warm hat** - wool or synthetic fiber

### PERSONAL ITEMS

- **1 pair hiking boots (well broken in)** – Boots should: be above the ankle for ankle support; Gore-tex or other waterproofing; be sure to wear your boots over the summer if you’re getting them new this year.

- **1 pair closed-toe camp shoes** – Chucks, tennies, crocs, sneakers...etc.

- **Sun hat or bandana**

- **1 pair sunglasses and protective case**

- **Toiletries** - Toothbrush/paste, hairbrush (if you have hair to brush), lip balm, sunscreen, extra contacts (if you wear them), contact solution, glasses if you wear contacts throughout the day and any medications you may need, menstrual products, Band-Aids, wet wipes (optional) for a “trail shower” ...etc.

### HIKING EQUIPMENT

- **1 internal frame backpack (65 liter)** – These come in a variety to fit different torso sizes. Be sure your pack fits you!
☐ 2 waterproof pack liners – Large thick trash bags do the trick.
☐ 1 sleeping bag (30-20-degree rating) - No cotton and should be synthetic down.
☐ 1 sleeping pad
☐ 2 One-Liter plastic or metal water bottles – Must be durable and reusable. Nalgene makes a very good reusable water bottle. A reused 32oz Gatorade bottle is more affordable and will last just about the length of your TREK trip.
☐ Plastic or metal eating/dining set - Bowl, spoon/fork, and mug. Plastic Tupperware and disposable cutlery works just fine!
☐ Thermos or mug
☐ 1 headlamp with extra batteries

OPTIONAL ITEMS

☐ Camera
☐ Personal journal and pen
☐ Musical instrument that easily travel (no full-size guitars)
☐ Favorite poem or prose for around the “campfire”
☐ Nighttime reading book
☐ Lightweight gloves - If you know your hands easily get cold.
☐ 1 Pocket Knife/Leatherman multi tool – Helpful around camp, and for cooking, etc.