Camping Checklist for Beginners: Pack for Your First Car-Camping Trip

PRINT • CHECK • REVIEW

Ready & Resourceful | Updated October 8, 2026

https://readyresourceful.com/outdoor/camping-checklist-beginners/

Household/group: _____

Date reviewed: _____

Conditions or destination: _____

- [ ] Tent, rainfly, poles, stakes, and any required setup accessories.
- [ ] Sleeping bag or bedding appropriate to expected conditions, plus a sleeping pad or mattress.
- [ ] Clothing layers, rain protection, spare dry socks, and suitable footwear.
- [ ] Headlamp or flashlight for each person who needs independent lighting.
- [ ] Drinking water, bottles, and a refill plan based on confirmed facilities.
- [ ] Planned food, utensils, opener where needed, and suitable cold storage.
- [ ] Stove and compatible fuel if needed and permitted, used according to instructions.
- [ ] Hygiene supplies, necessary medicines, and a first-aid kit.
- [ ] Sun and insect protection appropriate to the destination.
- [ ] Trash bags and the equipment required by local food-storage rules.
- [ ] Reservation information, maps, contacts, identification, and payment method.
- [ ] Small repair supplies appropriate to your equipment and skills.
- [ ] Personal supplies for children, pets, or accessibility needs.

READY CHECK

- [ ] Inspect condition and compatibility; replace missing or damaged items.
- [ ] Record where critical supplies are and who can retrieve them.
- [ ] Adapt quantities and supplies to the people, conditions and official instructions.
- [ ] Write down a backup or relocation arrangement.

Items to add: _____

Next review: _____

Read the full guide for limitations and safety context. This planning sheet is not emergency instructions or a guarantee of safety. Follow current official guidance. AI-assisted compilation; no field-testing claim.

References from the guide:

https://www.nps.gov/articles/camp-safety-before-the-trip.htm

https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/family-camping-checklist.html

https://www.nps.gov/articles/camp-safety-during-your-stay.htm

MY NEXT ACTION

Task / person responsible: _____

Review date: _____ Completed date: _____