

Rocky Mountain Explorer Packing List

Things to know

- We travel light at Overland; please only bring items on this list.
- Please wear the navy Overland T-shirt that you will receive from Overland to your trip start.
- Your group will have access to laundry periodically.
- Please do not bring your smart phone (or any other electronics).
- Do not bring any type of knife or multi-tool (such as a Swiss Army knife or Leatherman tool).
- If you are flying to your trip, wear your hiking boots and carry your sleeping bag and sleeping pad on the plane in case your checked luggage fails to arrive on time.
- Pack everything in your backpack or day pack. Do not bring additional luggage.
- There are no reimbursements for lost, damaged or stolen items.

Luggage

- Internal Frame Backpack—*50-70 liters or 3,000-4,300 cubic inches (if you plan to do longer backpacking trips in the future, consider purchasing a pack that is towards the higher end of this range). We recommend getting fitted at a store and trying on multiple packs.*

Clothing

- Navy Overland T-Shirt (1)
- Synthetic T-Shirt (3)
- Synthetic Shorts (3)
- Fleece Pants (1)—*Please do not bring cotton sweatpants (they are heavy and bulky and will not keep you warm if wet).*
- Synthetic Hiking Pants (optional)—*Lightweight and quick dry material. Non-cotton warmup style pants are acceptable.*
- Synthetic Long Underwear Top & Bottom (1)
- Underwear (5)
- Wool and/or Synthetic Socks (4)
- Gloves or Mittens (1)
- Winter Hat (1)
- Hat with Visor (1)
- Swimsuit (optional)—*If we swim, many students will wear shorts (and a sports bra for girls).*
- Pajamas (optional)—*Students sometimes prefer to sleep in shorts and a T-shirt instead of pajamas.*

Outer Layers

- Lightweight Fleece Jacket or Pullover (1)
- Fleece or Packable Synthetic/Down Jacket (1)—*Medium to heavyweight fleece jacket or lightweight, compressible, synthetic (Primaloft or similar) or down jacket.*
- Insulated Fleece or Down Vest (1)
- Raincoat (1)—*Waterproof material (e.g., Gore-Tex, or similar) is required. Your jacket should be large enough to allow layers underneath. Ponchos are not acceptable.*
- Waterproof Rain Pants (1)

Footwear

- Waterproof Hiking Boots—*Choose comfortable boots designed for hiking with a pack (i.e., mid to high cut for ankle support). Boots should be waterproof. Break them in before the start of your trip.*
- Camp Shoes—*Closed-toed shoes to wear around camp. Crocs or lightweight tennis shoes are ideal.*

General Gear

- Waterproof Pack Cover**—*If your backpack does not come with a cover, we recommend buying a cover one size larger than your pack.*
- Day Pack**—*Basic two-shoulder backpack large enough to hold your lunch, two water bottles, snacks, extra layers and rain jacket. Use your day pack as a carry-on for your flight and for daily activities or hikes. A standard school backpack is usually fine (no satchels or shoulder bags).*
- Synthetic Sleeping Bag**—*A lightweight, compact synthetic sleeping bag rated to 20 degrees Fahrenheit or less. A synthetic sleeping bag is required for this trip; down is not appropriate as it does not insulate if wet. Your sleeping bag should compress into a stuff sack no larger than 20" in length.*
- Sleeping Pad**—*3/4-length closed cell foam (thin and firm) or self-inflating.*
- Headlamp**—*Please bring an extra battery/batteries.*
- Bowl, Mug & Utensils**—*6" to 8" plastic dish or bowl with top, insulated plastic mug, spoon, fork and knife. These don't need to be special camping utensils (a Tupperware dish and regular utensils are fine).*
- Water Bottle**—*One 1-liter bottle. A Camelbak or similar water carrier is acceptable.*

Miscellaneous

- Synthetic Camping Towel**—*A medium-size synthetic camping towel (synthetic camping towels dry much faster than regular towels).*
- Travel Size Toiletries**
- Sunglasses**
- Sunscreen (SPF 15+) & Chapstick (with SPF protection)**
- Insect Repellent**
- Gallon Sized Ziploc Bags (10)**—*To organize and waterproof your gear and small items.*
- Large Trash Bags (4)**—*To waterproof your gear.*
- Package of Moleskin or Molefoam**—*To protect your feet from blisters.*
- Camera, Charger & Extra Batteries (optional)**—*A digital or disposable camera.*
- Personal Journal or Book (optional)**

Important Documents

- Health Insurance Card**—*Please bring an original or copy of your health insurance card.*
- Photo Identification**—*If you are not flying: Overland does not require photo identification. If you are flying within the U.S.: The TSA website has two relevant pieces of information. (1) "TSA does not require children under 18 to provide identification when traveling with a companion within the United States." This language indicates that TSA staff can insist that an under-18 year old who does not have a companion (we interpret this as a companion who is 18 or over traveling with them—not just checking them in) must have TSA-compliant identification. Our experience is that this requirement is inconsistently enforced but, since it might be enforced, we recommend that all Overland students who are flying to/from their trip have TSA-compliant identification. (2) "Contact the airline for questions regarding specific ID requirements for travelers under 18." This is always smart to do as airline policies vary widely and change frequently.*

Spending Money

- Spending Money & Miscellaneous Expenses**—*Each student should bring a debit card, an ATM card or a prepaid Visa card to cover spending money and miscellaneous expenses. Spending Money: While all meals and activities are included in the trip fee, we recommend \$25/week for spending money (for example: for souvenirs or an occasional drink or snack beyond what is provided to the group as a whole). Miscellaneous Expenses: Most Overland students will incur some expenses while traveling (for example: an equipment repair or baggage fees at trip end). Please add \$100 to the debit/ATM/Visa card (in addition to spending money), to cover these expenses.*