

THE ROAD

LESS TRAVELED®

Signe No Más Packing List

You may already own many of the items on this list. Clothing will receive hard use. We strongly recommend you borrow what you do not already have from friends or relatives, or bring old or used gear. Before you purchase any gear, be sure you read the "Guidelines for Gear" on the other side. All of the items listed below should be brought on your program. If you are missing gear, you may not be able to participate on a section of a program. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** No valuable or sentimental jewelry, expensive cameras, etc. should be brought on the expedition. Please do not bring any items that are irreplaceable. **IPods and other devices are not permitted.** These expeditions are designed for participation and personal listening devices take a person out of the group. Label everything.

These clothing lists are annually reviewed and updated with the help of our leaders, who participate on the specific program. Please keep in mind that they are compiled with the idea that specific weather could occur on your trip. It might be sunny and you won't use your rain gear, or it may be warmer than usual, and you might not use your warm layers or long sleeve garments. It is better to be prepared, than to be wishing you had brought something. This being said, you must be able to lift your bag; excessive baggage draws attention to travelers and can make you a target in large crowds. Please stick to what is on our packing list and use acute discretion with additional items.

LUGGAGE	PERSONAL GEAR
<input type="checkbox"/> large duffel bag or suitcase (approx. 7800 cu. inches or 12"x24"x36" – wheels are fine, but not necessary)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 copies of your passport kept in a safe place
<input type="checkbox"/> large size day pack (approx. 1000-2000 cubic inches)	<input type="checkbox"/> dark lens sunglasses (UV resistant)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 one liter durable water bottles
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 bandana
SLEEPING GEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> notebook/journal
<input type="checkbox"/> clothes for sleeping in (long sleeve t-shirts and sweats)	<input type="checkbox"/> zip-loc bags (various sizes for organization and dry storage)
<input type="checkbox"/> sleeping bag rated to 15°F (down or synthetic)	<input type="checkbox"/> extra batteries (for camera, headlamp, etc)
<input type="checkbox"/> sleeping bag stuff sack (compression style is best)	<input type="checkbox"/> writing materials (pen, pencil, stationery)
<input type="checkbox"/> sleeping pad (i.e. Therm-A-Rest)	<input type="checkbox"/> headlamp
	<input type="checkbox"/> prescription glasses (Required: contacts or glasses - bring an extra pair of glasses and a copy of your eye glass Rx)
UPPER BODY	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 short sleeve t-shirts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 set raingear <i>with</i> hood (jacket & pants; Gore-Tex or nylon)	TOILETRIES
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 thermal underwear tops (polypro/wool)	<input type="checkbox"/> insect repellent
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 warm wool or fleece over-sweaters	<input type="checkbox"/> sunscreen (30+ SPF – 2 tubes)
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 work shirts (old clothing you don't care about)	<input type="checkbox"/> soap (small bar/container)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 warm winter jacket (down is great!)	<input type="checkbox"/> shampoo (small container)
	<input type="checkbox"/> toothbrush & toothpaste
LOWER BODY	<input type="checkbox"/> deodorant
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair nylon (or similar) hiking pants	<input type="checkbox"/> feminine sanitary products
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 pairs comfortable work pants (i.e. jeans or Carhartts)	<input type="checkbox"/> laundry bag
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 pairs shorts (2 "quick dry" and 1-2 work shorts)	<input type="checkbox"/> alcohol-based hand sanitizer
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 pairs underwear ("quick dry" are ideal)	<input type="checkbox"/> lip balm w/ SPF
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 swimsuits (only one piece suits allowed for girls)	<input type="checkbox"/> moisturizing lotion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair thermal underwear bottoms (polypro/wool)	<input type="checkbox"/> "quick dry" towel and washcloth
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair warm pants (wool or fleece)	<input type="checkbox"/> motion sickness medicine
HEAD AND HAND	OPTIONAL GEAR
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 warm cap (wool/fleece stocking type)	<input type="checkbox"/> binoculars
<input type="checkbox"/> sun/rain hat with brim (i.e. baseball hat)	<input type="checkbox"/> mosquito head net
<input type="checkbox"/> light, tight-fitting leather work gloves	<input type="checkbox"/> Crazy Creek camping chair
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair warm gloves for snow or windstop fleece	<input type="checkbox"/> camera w/ film and waterproof camera bag
	<input type="checkbox"/> wristwatch (with alarm)
FOOTWEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> sketchbook, novels, other reading material
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair tennis shoes (shoes you don't mind getting dirty)	<input type="checkbox"/> keeper straps for sunglasses
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair sandals with straps (for water)	<input type="checkbox"/> children's book, soccer ball or other game in Spanish to donate to the children in the community
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 pairs wool socks, 4 pairs cotton socks	<input type="checkbox"/> small bottle of aloe vera
<input type="checkbox"/> lightweight hiking boots with Vibram sole or trail running shoe (well broken-in and must cover the ankle)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair flip flops	



Guidelines for Gear

WHERE TO SHOP

There are many places to purchase your gear and clothing for your trip including traditional stores and online shops. It is easy to buy clothing and accessories online, but if you are buying boots and a backpack we recommend that you go to a store rather than shop online as it is next to impossible to get the exact fit you need without trying on these items. An excellent fit is critical to your comfort.

REI is one of the leading national sellers of quality gear and hiking boots. Visit www.rei.com to view their inventory and find the store nearest you. Other store options include Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS), North Face, Patagonia, and Moosejaw Mountaineering. When going to a store take this equipment list with you and feel free to call us 800-939-9839 if you have any questions while at the store. You can find great deals online at: www.sierratradingpost.com, www.backcountry.com and www.campmor.com. For many items on this list, it is not necessary to shop at these stores; stores like Target and TJ Maxx sell many of these items, such as "quick dry" fabrics, at discounted prices.

PACKING FOR YOUR TRIP

All gear should be packed into the duffel bag or your suitcase. Your duffel should be soft and large enough to carry all of the gear listed. Pack by category in labeled stuff sacks so you don't have to constantly pack and repack.

Never check items you can't afford to lose. You should use your daypack to carry on important items including identification, medication, passports, visas, cameras, exposed film, etc. It's also a good idea to carry on toiletries, a fleece, a water bottle, and a rain jacket, in case delays or cancellations occur. Please remember that new security measures limit passengers to only one carry-on.

SLEEPING GEAR

Sleeping bag: Either down filled or synthetic-filled bags (Qualofil, Holo-fill Fiberfill, Polarguard). Your bag should be good to 15°F.

Sleeping pad: Should be closed-cell foam (e.g. ensolite) and 3/8" thick. Therm-a-rest pads (inflatable) are also excellent but weigh a little more. Length should be 3/4 or full body length. These are used for padding and insulation between the sleeping bag and the ground during expeditions. If you bring a Therm-A-Rest, consider bringing a patch kit as they are prone to leaks.

Sleeping bag stuff sack: Even if your pack has a compartment for your sleeping bag, you will need a stuff sack for travel and front-country days. Make sure your stuff sack is the right size for your sleeping bag. We recommend compressible stuff sacks!

COTTON, WOOL AND FLEECE

Cotton is comfortable, but provides little warmth. Cotton long underwear is virtually worthless when it is cold out. It absorbs moisture, which then cools the skin. Your comfort and safety depend on your clothing's ability to keep you warm and dry. In other words, leave your cotton long underwear at home.

Polypropylene/Capilene® and other synthetic fabrics act much like wool and are ideal for undergarments. They are warm, light and more comfortable on the skin than wool.

Wool maintains its ability to insulate even when wet because it wicks moisture away from the skin.

Polyester fleece acts in much the same way as wool and has been fashioned into comfortable sweaters, jackets, and just about anything else you can imagine.

RAIN GEAR

Good rain gear is a must - hoods required! There is a vast selection of clothing available designed to shed wind and rain. Whether it is made of coated nylon or a material with a breathable laminate (e.g. Gore-Tex), a good rain jacket is light, comfortable, durable, and keeps the rain out. Plastic is not acceptable rain gear. Make sure you choose a **waterproof** option, not just water repellent.

BOOTS

We cannot stress enough the importance of bringing well-made, well-fitted and well-worn, over-the-ankle boots. Wearing boots that have not been properly fitted or broken-in can result in severe blisters and could bring your trip to a premature end. The heel should lift up only a tiny bit going up a grade, while the toes should not hit in the front going down a grade. If you are buying a new pair of boots, wear them as much as possible before arriving. Light to mid-weight boots are adequate for our community service work and day hiking in Ecuador. Good boots aid your endurance, protect your feet and provide all-day comfort.

SWIMSUITS

We will be in remote areas with indigenous people who have very little contact with the outside world. Therefore, it is not appropriate for girls to wear bikinis, two-piece bathing suits or low cut one-piece bathing suits as wearing them may be misinterpreted by the very cultures we are living with in Ecuador. Sport suits for girls are ideal. We will make absolutely no exceptions to this rule!