

Buying Guide

These are my suggestions, having looked around for cheap stuff that works well.

Email me with your own best suggestions, and I'll add them to this list.

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(Updated: 4 April, 2011 -- but some info is 2-4 years old)



The Stream Machine - 36" single barrel is standard issue for this trip. Between assaults, use it to bail your canoe. Bring two. Was \$16.95 at Del Rancho Pool & Spa - In the far SW corner of the Henry's shopping center - Encinitas Blvd & El Camino Real in Encinitas. 858-756-7554. Also available for \$19.95 at Sports Authority. 24" also works well.



Insulated Cooler - With 2 or 3 half-gallon jugs of water frozen solid, your stuff might still be frosty cold on Sunday. I use a 36 quart one that stays shut, and a 20 quart for "today's stuff." Most coolers are not insulated! Even some "5-day" coolers have no insulation in the lid. Squeeze the walls and see if it's just air in the cavity. Look for a tight fitting lid. Wal-Mart has good deals. 4-15-10: I like the 52-quart Igloo Marine cooler for \$24.99 at Costco (Pictured here). It has a flat top -- you can add reflective insulation board on top for even more COOL.



Most people use **6 ft. or 7-foot beach umbrellas**. Make sure it's coated fabric for SPF-50 & adjustable height. They'll blow away unless you bungee them tightly to your chair. They will blow away with your chair in tow if that's not secured. Even when rigged with thin cord or fishing line as shown, they'll invert in high wind. The 7 ft ones usually have a "wind flap" on top, which helps. Check Wal-Mart, Target, CVS, etc. Good price is \$10 for 6-ft.

White resin chairs work well. Avoid dark colors -- too hot. They don't pack so easily into your crowded car, but you can work it out, or have one person bring 8-12 stacked (identical) resin chairs for your whole cluster.



Sling folding chairs can work great but most are too wide or not high enough. Shouldn't be wider than 21" at rear legs. Front of seat should be at least 15" high so that canoe benches & braces don't interfere.

◀ Wal-Mart's "Mainstays Folding Outdoor Chair" -- \$19.00 as of 4-1-2011 is pretty good. Narrow enough, high enough (front of seat is 16-1/2"h), cheap enough, compact when folded, 100% synthetic fabric.



To keep sleeping bags dry: Use duffels or stuff sacks with trash bags inside. Big 5 has 14" dia. x 30" duffels for \$15.

5-gallon paint buckets can work, but too small for some bags. \$5-7 at Lowes or Home Depot.



For frequent access (food, towel, clothing, etc.) **Rubbermaid 18 gallon Totes** work very well. About \$7.00 when on sale at Target, Home Depot or Wal-Mart. Bins larger than this won't stow as well.

Floatables - I like small. Puts you IN the water where it's cool. Easier to climb aboard and store on deck. Kayaks can be fun. Bring enough for all the kids float at once. Too many is a drag.



Left to right: This section needs updating. the above items are no longer available.

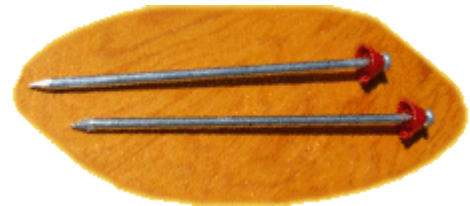
Braided polypropylene (floats) for your tow-ables and bow line. Get it on a winder.



100 ft of 1/4" - \$6.88 at Home Depot. 75 ft of 3/16" - Choice of 4 colors for \$3.34 at Wal-Mart.



10-inch steel nail stakes for your tent. \$.79 at Big Five. The ground can be rock hard. Flimsy stakes don't cut it.



Tiki "Ready-2-Light" torch heads travel well because the screw cap seals tight. Fits your standard torch holders. \$3.47 at Wal-Mart. A little more at Home Depot.



Jet-ski rentals: The larger, 3 person ones are best. Ski or wakeboard behind them. \$500-\$600 for the weekend (Fri. afternoon through Monday AM.). Trailers can hold 2 jet-skis. Bring extra fuel. **Please be safe** if you decide to rent a jet-ski. As you may know, there is no steering when letting off the throttle. Sand bars, river congestion, other clueless drivers. If you are sharing a jet-ski with inexperienced drivers, the risks are multiplied.