

# CLOTHING AND GEAR

## 14-DAY PATAGONIA SERVICE AND BACKPACKING



**North Carolina  
Outward Bound**

### WHAT WE SUPPLY

North Carolina Outward Bound supplies you with the technical equipment needed for your course including a backpack, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, rain gear, compass and cooking/eating equipment. Bring only the items on the Clothing and Gear List.

At the end of course, you will clean all gear that was issued to you. You and your crew are financially responsible for any lost or damaged equipment.

### WHAT TO BRING

Because our courses are characterized by unpredictable weather, obtaining the proper clothing is crucial. Please bring the items on the Clothing and Gear List as described. You can find these items at camping, outdoor and thrift stores, Army/Navy surplus, outlets and mail-order catalogs.

Clothing and gear can be expensive. Shop around before you buy. Buy last year's model; don't worry about colors or style. Your choices should be governed by whether or not the piece of clothing or gear will get the job done, not if it is the best looking or newest! Many students use the following websites to shop for clothing and gear:

Recreational Equipment Incorporated - [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)

Eastern Mountain Sports - [www.ems.com](http://www.ems.com)

Sierra Trading Post - [www.sierratradingpost.com](http://www.sierratradingpost.com)

Campmor - [www.campmor.com](http://www.campmor.com)

There are no stores on our wilderness courses where you can purchase forgotten items.

### FABRICS

It is important that all your clothing be comfortable, quick-drying and warm. Fabrics such as polyester, polypropylene, fleece, acrylic, rayon, wool or name brands like Polartec™, Thinsulate™, COOLMAX<sup>R</sup> and Capilene are just a few favorites of outdoor enthusiasts, since they retain much of their insulating qualities when wet. There are other brand names as well. Check with a sales associate or mail-order representative. Do not bring down, denim or cotton clothing (unless otherwise indicated).

Our Clothing and Gear List reflects the layering principle. Several layers of light clothing keep you warm and can be adjusted to changes in both weather and activity. For example, wearing a polypropylene undershirt, a medium-weight wool or synthetic sweater and a fleece jacket allows you to adapt to changing conditions.

### PACKING AND STORAGE

Pack clothing and gear in a duffel bag or soft luggage container. When you arrive and meet your instructors, you will transfer your packed items into our backpacks and will be supplied with individual and group camping equipment and food. Remaining items such as clean clothes (for your return trip home) and valuables such as cell phones and wallets will be returned to your duffel or soft luggage container. These items will be stored at our base camp facility in a locked storage bin while you are on course. Please leave expensive items such as jewelry at home. Radios, CD players, MP3 players, Global Positioning System (GPS) units and Personal Locator Beacons (PLB's) are not permitted on course.

### MEDICATIONS

Prescription medications brought on course must arrive in the original container with the prescription label intact. The prescription label is documentation for your use of the medication while on course. The container should not include other medications, vitamins, etc. Refer to Medical Record booklet - "Medications," page 1.

Do not bring non-prescription medications such as aspirin, Advil, etc., unless it is listed in your Medical Record booklet. We have a medical kit that contains these medications.

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## YOUR EYES

North Carolina Outward Bound staff recommends glasses with a holding band versus contact lenses. It is more difficult to maintain adequate hygiene when wearing contact lenses in a wilderness setting. Wearing contact lenses puts you at risk of several serious conditions including eye infections and corneal ulcers. These conditions can develop very quickly and can be very serious. In rare cases, these conditions can cause blindness. If you do choose to wear contact lenses, bring both a back up pair of contacts and glasses. Be sure to bring enough contact lens solution and be diligent in your contact lens routine.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/HomeHealthandConsumer/ConsumerProducts/ContactLenses/ucm062589.htm>

## CAMERAS

If you would like to record events on your course, bring your camera (waterproof disposable cameras are recommended). If you elect to bring a non-disposable camera, we advise that you store it in a small “dry bag” or plastic zip lock bag to keep it dry. Our courses are rigorous, and there is a risk of losing or damaging your camera. **Cell phone cameras are prohibited.**

## MONEY

You will need some spending money during the course. You will need money for laundry, extra batteries or film, and any meals or miscellaneous items you choose to purchase during town visits or travel days. You may also need to pay for replacement costs of damaged or lost North Carolina Outward Bound gear. We suggest you bring at least \$200 (past students have recommended \$500) mixed between cash and a debit card OR a credit card with a PIN number to cover these incidental expenses. **We suggest that you purchase a money belt or traveler’s neck pouch to carry your passport, plane tickets and cash.**

## MAIL

Because of the remote nature of the Patagonia course area, mail delivery and receipt is not available.

## TELEPHONE

You will be in remote wilderness areas and unable to place or receive phone calls. Cellular phones are not permitted on Outward Bound courses. (You may travel with a cell phone which will be stored for you while you are on course.) However, emergency messages can be relayed by calling our toll free number, 800-878-5258, on weekdays. If there is an emergency call, we will deliver the message as soon as possible. Before your course begins, you will receive a letter or e-mail with after-hours and emergency numbers.

# BOOTS AND FOOTWEAR

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Proper footwear is essential for your safety and enjoyment. Because this course involves mountaineering and travel on rugged, uneven terrain, having the proper boots is essential. Shopping for outdoor footwear can be confusing for even the most experienced hiker. You should be able to find good boots at reasonable prices. Take the following information with you when shopping:

## BOOTS

The best boot for our terrain is a medium-weight hiking boot or light-weight mountaineering boot that has ankle support, leather, nylon or Gore-Tex upper, and a hard rubber lug sole, which looks like a tire tread. (Crepe soled boots, “approach” shoes and “trail” shoes are not acceptable.) Do not buy high boots that constrict the calf. Your boots should be waterproof and comfortable.

## INNER SOLE LINERS

Inner sole liners can add extra warmth and comfort to your feet. If you choose to use an inner sole liner **MAKE SURE** to wear them when you are fitting your boots. If you try to use them after your boot has been fitted, they may make your boot too small. Examples of inner sole liners include: Spenco Neoprene Liner and Spenco Polysorb Replacement Insole.

## FITTING YOUR BOOTS

A proper fit is essential, and you are unlikely to judge this walking around a store. Some retailers will allow you to purchase your boots with the understanding that if you wear them indoors for several hours and they do not feel comfortable, you may return them. Experiment with lacing the boots in different ways to get the most comfortable fit. Boots should have a snug-fitting heel to prevent excessive heel lift that can cause blisters. There should be plenty of toe room, even when walking down hill. Try your boots for fit on both an incline and a decline. Fit your boots with the socks you will wear on course. A light, wicking (polypropylene, sheer wool or nylon) sock next to the skin, combined with a wool sock, provides both cushioning and protection from friction.

## TEST TO ENSURE A PROPER FIT

Fit your boots with the socks you will wear on course.

**Test 1:** With the boots unlaced and your toes touching the front of the boot, the boot should be large enough to place your forefinger between your heel and the heel of the boot.

**Test 2:** With the boot laced, your heel must be firmly lodged in the heel cup with very little lift when you walk.

**Test 3:** The boot should fit snugly around the ball of your foot so that when you twist your foot it does not move or slip inside the boot.

**Test 4:** When on a steep incline, or when tapping the front of your boot against the floor, your toes should not hit the end of the boot.

## BREAKING IN YOUR BOOTS

Begin wearing your boots long before your course starts. Wear them around town and at home as much as possible every day for several weeks. You should put 10+ miles on your boots to break them in, walking on both level and rough terrain. If you start feeling any hot spots on your feet, treat them immediately using moleskin to protect against the hiker’s worst enemy: the blister! Be kind to your feet.

## WATERPROOFING YOUR BOOTS

After you are certain your boots fit properly, they should be waterproofed. Some boots are already waterproofed when they are purchased; but if not, follow the sales associate or manufacturer’s recommendations concerning the type of waterproofing to purchase

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Even the most experienced Outward Bound instructors have different ideas on what will best suit their needs while living in the wilderness. You will likely develop your own preferences by the end of your course. Below is a list developed from many years of experience. The International Leadership Semester takes place over several seasons, locations and altitudes. White or light colors are cooler in hot climates. In addition, they attract fewer biting insects. Dark colors are acceptable for insulating attire. Changing weather conditions may require the use of all of these items. Clothing made from cotton does not provide insulating warmth when it is wet. Therefore, cotton clothing is only acceptable for town visits and travel days. For warmth, clothing should be made from the following synthetic or wool fibers; polyester, polypropylene, fleece, acrylic, rayon, wool or name brands like Polartec™, Thinsulate™, CoolMax™ and Capilene™. Please check all clothing labels to ensure that each piece is made from one of these fibers.

## UPPER BODY INSULATION

- 1 lightweight synthetic fill jacket  
**Look for fills such as Polarguard 3D, Primaloft, or 3M Hillofill. This garment is an essential piece that will provide extra warmth for the mountaineering and backcountry travel in Patagonia and will be equally useful in the North Carolina Mountains. It will keep you warm in camp when you aren't active.**
- 1 200-weight fleece jacket or pullover  
**Comfortable, breathes well, insulates when wet. A sufficiently warm wool or wool/synthetic sweater may be substituted - if in doubt, bring two.**
- 1 unlined, light-weight, breathable nylon windbreaker
- 1 light-weight synthetic long underwear top
- 1 long sleeved, light colored cotton t-shirt or button up camp shirt
- 1 long sleeved synthetic t-shirt
- 3 t-shirts: 2 may be cotton
- 3 sport/jog bras (if applicable)

## LOWER BODY INSULATION

- 1 pair 200-weight synthetic or fleece pants
- 1 light-weight synthetic long underwear bottom
- 1 pair of quick-dry nylon trekking pants (can be the type that converts to shorts)
- 1 pairs of quick-drying nylon shorts (at least one with liner)
- 1 swimsuit (men can use lined shorts)
- 3-4 pairs of synthetic/silk underwear or boxer shorts

## UPPER AND LOWER BODY SHELL GEAR

It is crucial to have adequate protection from the wind and rain. We may hike for days in the rain, sometimes in strong winds. Please bring a high quality waterproof-breathable jacket and pants. Waterproof-breathable clothing allows your sweat to escape even while keeping you protected from the elements. Your rain gear needs to be able to withstand heavy use in diverse environments.

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- 1 three-ply Gore-Tex or similar high quality (Triple Point Ceramic, H2No Storm) waterproof-breathable jacket with a storm-proof hood. Reinforced shoulders will help protect the jacket from the rubbing of your backpack. Brands to look for include Marmot, Mountain Hardwear, Patagonia, ArcTeryx, the North Face and Mountain Equipment Coop.
- 1 pair full zip Gore-Tex or similar high quality waterproof-breathable pants with full side zippers. Look for reinforced knees and bottom. The same brands as above are recommended.

If you already own a waterproof-breathable jacket and/or pants (described above) that are more than a year old, wear them over a dark t-shirt and dark underwear, put the hood up, and stand under your shower for several minutes making sure to douse the entire jacket and pants, especially around the shoulders of the jacket. Leaks will show on the dark cotton fabric if the items are no longer waterproof. If this is the case, treat your existing jacket/pants with a waterproofing product. Such products are available at many outdoor stores and can help restore waterproofing ability. Or you may consider purchasing new jacket/pants.

## HEAD

- 1 medium-weight fleece or wool hat that cover your ears and the back of your neck
- 1 wide brimmed sun hat or baseball cap
- 1 bandanna (used to shield your head, neck or face from wind burn and sun burn)

## EYES

- 1 pair of glacier compatible sunglasses or goggles  
**At least 97% UV protection; should not allow any light to enter from the sides or below. Glacier glasses are the best option and ski goggles will also work well. Good sunglasses are extremely important. Snow travel without them can result in sun burned eyes and temporary snow blindness. If you choose to purchase goggles and wear glasses, make sure that the goggles fit over your glasses.**
- Prescription eye wear (if applicable)  
**Bring an extra pair in case of loss or damage. If you have limited vision without your glasses, bring prescription sunglasses or glacier glasses, or bring high quality ski goggles (make sure they block 97% UV) that fit over your glasses.**
- Retainer straps (make sure they snugly fit your glasses and have an adjustable strap)
- Hard cases to store glasses/goggles

## HANDS

- 1 pair of warm fleece or wool gloves or mittens

## FEET

- 1 pair of medium-weight hiking boots or light-weight mountaineering boots (see Boots and Footwear section)
- 1 pair of light-weight running shoes (these can also be considered as your camp shoe)
- 1 pair of CAMP SHOES: light-weight running shoes or sport sandals that have a hard sole, are secure fitting, closed toed and enclose the majority of the foot (Crocs). These shoes will be worn in camp with the intention of staying dry.

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- 2 pairs of medium-weight wool or synthetic socks
- 2 pairs of light-weight synthetic liner socks
- 3 pairs of light-weight cotton socks

## GEAR

- Passport with reciprocity fee receipt stapled inside.
- 1 photocopy of the biometrics page (photo page) of your passport and the reciprocity fee receipt
- Airline tickets and photocopy of each ticket or e-mail flight confirmation and 1 copy of confirmation
- Cash, ATM card, credit card.

**Taking money out of an ATM or changing cash at the airport is your best option. Advise your bank that you will be traveling to Argentina to avoid issues with ATM service. You will be able to cash-in travelers checks or use the ATM during days in town. Credit cards are accepted in some places but are of less use for smaller purchases in Argentina.**

- Prescription medication
- 1 LED style headlamp with 1 spare set of batteries (recommended) OR 1 standard headlamp with 3 sets of spare batteries and one spare bulb. Avoid halogen bulbs to prolong battery life
- 1 small bottle of insect repellent, not aerosol
- 1 Swiss Army type knife or multi-tool with locking blade and can opener
- 1 waterproof watch with alarm
- 1-2 tubes of sunscreen SPF 30+
- 2-3 lip balms SPF 30+ or greater.
- 3 pens or pencils
- 1 old twin flat sheet (39 x 75 inches) or sarong (55 x 57 inches)/shemagh (44 x 44 inches) to cover up from bugs on hot nights and discrete clothing changes
- 8"x 5" notebook
- 1 box gallon-sized zip lock bags: for camera and journal storage
- Small toothbrush and toothpaste
- Small comb or brush
- 1 towel (for use between phases, not in the field)
- Travel sized toiletries for town day/post course clean-up
- 1 set of extra clothes: casual and rugged for in town and travel days
- 1 set of work clothes for service project (can be cotton)

## OPTIONAL ITEMS

**It's nice to go light, but many past students recommend bringing the following items:**

- Trekking poles - help distribute weight while hiking with heavy packs. (Great if you have weak ankles/knees)
- 1 money belt or neck pouch for carrying valuables under clothing
- Stationery/envelopes/stamps

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- Spanish/English dictionary or phrase book
- Day pack/book bag
- Camera and film or extra digital storage devices
- Insulated thermos, up to 1 liter capacity
- Nutrition Bars - you will be provided with all of the food you need throughout your course; however, many students prefer a stash of their own “power bars”. Power, Cliff, Luna and Balance are all examples of bars that are great nutritional companions in the wilderness.
- Thermarest pad: We provide foam sleeping pads; however, many participants prefer an inflatable sleeping pad. Inflatable pads are a bit heavier and can develop leaks. If you bring one, bring a lightweight,  $\frac{3}{4}$  length pad with stuff sack and repair kit.
- Crazy Creek camp chair: Comfortable, but heavy. If you bring a Thermarest pad, a lighter and cheaper alternative is to purchase a Thermarest chair kit that converts the sleeping pad into a comfortable seat.
- Gold Bond™ powder

## IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT MEDICATIONS

Refer to page one of your Medical Record booklet under **Medications**, and the first page of this Clothing and Gear booklet, under **Medications** for requirements.