

VISIONS
SERVICE ADVENTURES

MONTANA FARM & RANCH | PACKING SUGGESTIONS

Choosing the right equipment for your program can help make your time in Montana more enjoyable. We request that all students come well prepared. However, we also understand that outdoor stores can often feel like a daunting and overwhelming experience, and we hope this list will help you navigate equipment and clothing options.

A few key recommendations that we like to mention: don't break the bank; function over fashion; 'cotton is rotten' (an outdoor saying as wet cotton does not provide insulation and takes a long time to dry); less is more, and break in your boots!

TENT VISIONS provides students with [REI Co-op Passage 2 person tents](#) for portions of the backcountry components. You are also welcome to bring your own if you prefer. Here are a few examples of another durable option: [Big Agnes Blacktail 2 person tent](#).

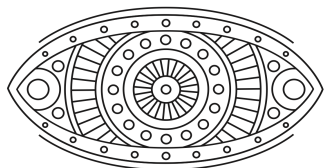
SLEEPING BAG You will need a warm sleeping bag in which you will sleep in every night for the entire duration of the program. We recommend a down or synthetic-insulated, mummy-style sleeping bag rated to at least 25° F. Please remember that it will get cold in Montana, and your sleeping bag needs to be warm. Here are a few examples for reference: [Marmot Ouray](#), [Big Agnes Benchmark](#), [The North Face Furnace](#), and [REI Down Time](#).

SLEEPING BAG LINER For those that cold easily, we recommend also purchasing a silk or fleece sleeping bag liner. This keeps you extra toasty when nights get cold! Here are a few examples: [Cocoon Silk Liner](#), [Sea to Summit Thermolite Liner](#), and [Rab Silk Neutrino Liner](#).

BACKPACK You will need a backpack for the backcountry portion of your program. You are welcome to rent one of VISIONS' or bring your own. If you choose to bring your own, it should have a sturdy, padded hip belt that is 60 liters of space. Some recommendations include: [Osprey Archeon](#) or [Arcteryx Bora AR](#).

SLEEPING PAD VISIONS also has backcountry sleeping pads for rent, however, if you choose to bring your own, some popular brands include [Thermarest](#) and [Big Agnes](#).

BOOTS Make sure that you try them on and break them in! We suggest a waterproof boot and recommended brands include: [Merrell](#), [Salomon](#), [Vasque](#), and [Asolo](#). This is a helpful link from REI on [How to Choose Hiking Boots](#).



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SNOW AND RAIN BOOTS Because the weather in Montana is often snowy and muddy, we recommend bringing a pair of snow or rain boots for work projects and everyday around camp. A recommended brand is [Bogs Classic Farm Boots](#).

SOCKS Wool or synthetic socks for working, backpacking, hiking, and skiing. Synthetic and wool socks keep your feet warm when wet and dry faster. If you get cold easily, bring a thick pair for sleeping. Some recommended brands include [Darn Tough](#), [Smartwool](#), and [Icebreaker](#).

WATERPROOF JACKET AND PANTS We suggest a waterproof “shell” which is uninsulated that will keep you warm and dry. The jacket should have a good hood and fit over other layers. The waterproof pants should also fit over other clothes. **Make sure that both are waterproof, not water-resistant.** Recommended brands include [REI Co-op](#), [Patagonia](#), [Marmot](#), [The North Face](#), and [Mountain Hardwear](#).

BASELAYERS Mid-weight non-cotton tops and bottoms (long underwear) made with synthetic or wool fibers to keep you warm even when wet. Some recommended brands include [REI Co-op](#), [Under Armour](#), [Patagonia](#), [Smartwool](#), and [Icebreaker](#).

QUICK-DRY PANTS We suggest nylon pants because nylon is durable, lightweight, and insulates when wet. Some recommended brands include: [ExOfficio](#), [Patagonia](#), and [REI Co-op](#).

MIDDLE LAYER PULLOVER This is a layer that you will most likely wear daily. It needs to be a good fit so that you can still layer your rain jacket over it. A good example is the classic [Patagonia Synchronia](#). You may also choose to bring a wool sweater instead.

SYNTHETIC JACKET This is optional, but a nice part of the layering system. We recommend something similar to the [Patagonia Nano Puff](#) or [Montebell Thermawrap](#).

In addition, some recommended stores that often have sales include [Backcountry.com](#), [Sierra Trading Post](#), [REI Garage](#), and [CampSaver](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions!