



LEARN TO LEAD BOULDER, CO EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

It is important that you prepare for your course and take your preparation seriously. Arriving appropriately equipped and prepared will help ensure that you get the most out of your experience.

This equipment list is aimed to help you bring only the essential gear for your mountain adventures. Please read this list thoroughly, but exercise common sense when packing for your trip. Climbs in the summer simply do not require as much clothing as those done in the fall or spring. Please pack accordingly and ask questions if you are uncertain.

GEAR PREPARATION: Take the time to properly label and identify all items of personal gear. Many items that climbers bring are almost identical. Your name on a garment tag or a piece of colored electrical tape on carabiners and miscellaneous items is an easy way to label your gear; fingernail polish on hard goods is excellent. If using tape or colored markers, make sure your labeling method is durable and water resistant.

When preparing your equipment for travel to Colorado, please remember that lighters and stove fuel are not allowed on aircraft. Stoves that have been thoroughly cleaned can be put in your checked baggage. Cover and tape sharp points, so they do not puncture other items in your luggage.

ASSISTANCE: At AAI we take equipment and its selection seriously. Our Equipment Services department is expertly staffed by climbers, skiers and guides. Additionally, we only carry products in our store have been thoroughly field tested and approved by our guides. This intensive process ensures that all equipment that you purchase from AAI is best suited to your course and future mountain adventures. Please contact us to select equipment for your course.

Please contact the Equipment Shop at 360-671-1570 for assistance in selecting equipment for your course.

Rentals: Equipment items that may be available for rent are designated with an **(R)**. *If you will be needing any rental equipment please fill out a [Rental Request Form](#) as soon as possible so that we can best guarantee rental availability for your course.*

Clothing and Footwear	Packing Checklist
<p>COMFORTABLE SHOES/ APPROACH SHOES</p> <p>Comfortable, lightweight shoes to use on the approach to hikes and scrambling sections of climbs.</p> <p>★ Examples: Salewa Wildfire Approach shoes, Scarpa Gecko Lite</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>SOCKS</p> <p>Bring two or three complete changes. Adjust your sock system ahead of time to perfect your boot fit. No cotton.</p> <p>★ Materials: wool or synthetic are ideal</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>SHORTS</p> <p>Shorts should be about knee length and not much shorter to fit comfortably under your harness.</p> <p>★ Materials: Nylon</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>CLIMBING PANTS</p> <p>Look for synthetic lightweight hiking or climbing pants. This will be your outermost layer most of the time for your legs. A thigh pocket is a useful feature for storing small items. Your base layers need to fit under these pants comfortably. Your pants should not restrict your range of motion</p> <p>★ Materials: Schoeller, Powershield, Powerdry or similar</p> <p>★ Examples: Prana Stretch Zion, Patagonia RPS Rock Pant</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>T-SHIRT</p> <p>Light colors are best. This shirt can be synthetic or cotton. If you plan to hike in it, synthetic is better. A cotton shirt can be a nice break from the synthetics while at camp.</p> <p>★ Materials: Synthetic, cotton, blends</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>2nd LAYER TOP</p> <p>A lightweight fleece shirt or hoody. A chest pocket is a helpful feature.</p> <p>★ Materials: Nylon, micro weave fabrics, fleece, wind stopper</p> <p>★ Examples: Rab PowerStretch Fleece, Patagonia R1</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>SOFT SHELL / WINDPROOF JACKET</p> <p>Thin, light, stretchy, breathable but wind and snow resistant layer that is comfortable to wear. Hoods are highly recommended. Size your jacket to be trim fitting, but large enough to fit over your base and second layers. This layer will go over your base and 2nd layers, but under your shell and parka if wearing this layer in combination with those layers. No waterproof coated nylon, as it is not breathable.</p> <p>★ Materials: Schoeller, Powerstretch, Powerdry, or similar</p> <p>★ Examples: Patagonia Houdini, Rab Cirrus Wind Top, Rab Vapor Rise Lite-Alpine, Mountain Equipment Squal</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>MID-WEIGHT INSULATION JACKET</p> <p>A warm puffy jacket with an optional hood. These come in many shapes, sizes and temperature ratings. If you tend to get cold easily, opt for a slightly warmer more substantial parka.</p> <p>★ Fill Materials: Primaloft, down</p> <p>★ Shell Material: Nylon epic eVent</p> <p>★ Examples: Rab Xenon X Hoodie, Patagonia DAS parka</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy

<p>BEANIE HAT/ TOQUE Bring a thin, warm hat that will fit under your climbing helmet. ★ <i>Materials: Fleece, wool, windstopper, or similar</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>SUN HAT A baseball cap or visor serves well.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>GLOVES Lightweight polypropylene recommended.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<h2>Climbing Equipment</h2>	
<p>CLIMBING HARNESS (R) For alpine climbing, choose a harness with adjustable leg loops and a belay loop. Make sure it fits your body when wearing bulky clothing. Gear loops are desirable features. ★ <i>Examples: Mammut Zephir Altitude, Camp Alpine Flash, Black Diamond Alpine Bod</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy <input type="checkbox"/> Rent
<p>CLIMBING SHOES There are many different kinds, but make sure you have some you can stay all day and are comfortable. An all-around rock shoe that performs well (both in cracks and while edging) is recommended.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy <input type="checkbox"/> Rent
<p>CLIMBING HELMET (R) Must be UIAA approved for climbing and in good condition. Lightweight, well ventilated, and comfortable. Models with a plastic shell are more durable, but are heavier than all foam models. Kayak or bicycle helmets are not acceptable. ★ <i>Examples: Black Diamond Half Dome, Petzl Elios</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy <input type="checkbox"/> Rent
<p>CHALK BAG AND CHALK</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>CORDELETTE A 20 foot length of 7mm nylon cord.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>LARGE LOCKING CARABINERS At least two total. Two must be large, pear shaped (or MÜNTER) locking carabiners. Wiregate non-locking carabiners work well for the remaining two. ★ <i>Examples: Petzl Attache, Black Diamond Vaporlock, Camp HMS Nitrolock</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>BELAY DEVICE Bring one if you have one, but you don't have to buy one for the course. If you want to get one, be sure to get advice on choices from the Equipment Department. (ATC's and like devices are recommended over Figure 8's.) ★ <i>Examples: ATC XP, Trango Jaws, and Petzl Reverso work well with the smaller diameter and often icy ropes that go with ice climbing</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>ROCK CLIMBING RACK <i>Optional.</i> This generally includes an assortment of wired nuts, cams, hexes, nut tool etc. Bring what you have, if you don't own any trad gear, we will provide this for you during the course.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<h2>Other Equipment</h2>	
<p>INTERNAL FRAME CLIMBING PACK Something that can carry all of your things for the day, plus some group gear (ropes, rack anchor materials, etc.)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy

<p>★ Size: 30-40 liters</p> <p>★ Examples: Black Diamond Speed 40, Arc'Teryx Alpha FL 45, Cold Cold World Valdez, CiloGear 40B Worksack, Gregory Alpinisto 50</p>	
<p>HYDRATION</p> <p>3 liters of water capacity minimum. Hydration bladders with appropriate accessories are recommended.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>LUNCH FOOD and SNACKS</p> <p>Lightweight and high energy snacks.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>MULTI-TOOL or POCKET KNIFE</p> <p>Leatherman Tool or Swiss army style is good.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>PERSONAL MEDICAL KIT</p> <p>For sunburn, blisters, headaches, and minor cuts and scrapes. Please include duct tape, moleskin, bandages, and prescription at a minimum.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>ATHLETIC TAPE</p> <p>Bring one roll of 1 ½ inch wide cloth athletic tape for taping hands for crack climbing.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>SUNSCREEN</p> <p>With Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 30 or higher. A couple of 1oz. Tubes are adequate work better than one large one. For the fair skinned, the higher the SPF, the better. Dermatone produces an effective 1" diameter stick as well as a translucent zinc oxide lotion.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>LIP PROTECTION</p> <p>Chapstick with highest SPF available is recommended.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>SUNGLASSES</p> <p>Choose a model with 100% UVA/UVB protection. Keeper strings like "Croakies" are useful to prevent dropping your glasses while climbing. Those using contact lenses should bring a pair of prescription glasses if available.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>BUFF/BANDANA</p> <p>Multiple uses from a sweat towel to neck sun protection.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>PERSONAL TOILETRIES</p> <p>Bring half a roll of toilet paper or less, a travel size of hand sanitizer and a small ziploc bag.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>FINGERNAIL CLIPPERS</p> <p>Trim nails back prior to course.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Buy
<p>HEADLAMP</p> <p>A high output LED model. Bring fresh batteries and one set of extra batteries. Flashlights are not acceptable.</p> <p>★ Examples: Petzl Tikka XP, Black Diamond Spot</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Details:

The Equipment Shop at the American Alpine Institute The Equipment Shop at the American Alpine Institute provides clothing and equipment for purchase, rental gear, and advice. Shop staff members are great climbers themselves and deeply involved in evaluating and testing gear. They are considered by many outdoor gear manufacturers to be the most expert in the country. They thoroughly understand the needs of climbers who will be rock climbing, ice climbing, mountaineering, or exploring the world on international expeditions.

Please consider our staff members part of your resource team in preparing for your trip. AAI Equipment Specialists are on hand to consult with you on specific gear needs, to answer questions on the latest equipment and innovations, and to make recommendations on best choices of clothing and equipment. They can assure that you are equipped with the best possible gear for your climbs. If you have any difficulty determining whether some particular items of clothing or equipment you already own will serve you well on a particular trip, they can help you answer that question.

Guides Choice International Field Testing

The Equipment Shop at the American Alpine Institute also administers AAI's prestigious [Guide's Choice Award](#). Equipment and clothing that have been awarded the Guides Choice designation have proven to be the top item in their product category. The awards are made on the basis of excellence in design, performance, and durability demonstrated in rigorous international field tests carried out by the professional guides of the Institute.

Call or E-mail the Equipment Shop for Advice or Gear

Please feel free to contact us and to let us help you get ready for your climbing trip. Your comfort and safety depend on being well equipped. Whether you get your gear from us or just get advice, we're here to help you prepare.

Call: (360) 671-1570

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