



PEAKS & PROFESSORS

About Peaks



About Me

- Head Trip Lead for Peaks
- Hiked 1200 miles of Pacific Crest Trail
- Generally outdoorsy





thinking outside

Car Camping

Car Camping

a type of camping which involves driving rather than walking to a campsite

(doesn't necessarily mean camping in the car)



Goal

Learn how to plan a fun, responsible, and environmentally-conscious car camping trip.

Today's Topics

- 1 How to find and reserve a spot
- 2 What gear you need and where to get it
- 3 How to enjoy nature safely and responsibly





Leave No Trace

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Abbreviations

- **NFS** - National Forest Service
- **NPS** - National Parks Service
- **BLM** - Bureau of Land Management
- **LNT** - Leave No Trace



Finding & Reserving a Site



Researching Locations

- RECREATION.gov
 - National Park campsites
 - National Forest sites
 - BLM reservable sites
- Bureau of Land Management
 - [blm.gov](https://www.blm.gov) → Visit → Camping
 - *Where to Camp* map for campsites and dispersed camping areas
 - Rules, ethics, and safety tips
- California State Parks
 - www.parks.ca.gov
 - ReserveCalifornia.com



A campground in Angeles National Forest

Reservation Methods

- Reservable online
 - Recreation.gov, ReserveCalifornia.com
 - Bring printed confirmation
- Walk-in Campgrounds
 - Pay **cash** at pay station, usually near entrance
 - Nat'l Parks, etc. often have some sites set aside as walk-in
 - Know other campgrounds in area in case it's full
- Dispersed Camping
 - No officially designated sites
 - Usually no fees



A typical self-pay station

Dispersed Camping

- Most undeveloped public lands available
 - Camping cannot interfere with other uses
 - <https://freecampsites.net>
- No amenities
 - Bring water
 - No bathrooms
 - Pack out trash
- Pick a low-impact site
 - Applies to all types of campgrounds
 - Use a location that has been camped in before
 - Avoid disturbing vegetation, etc.
 - Consider **LNT** principles
- **Find specific rules and regulations for an area before you go**
 - NFS/BLM website, contact NFS/BLM office



Dispersed camping in Black Rock Desert, NV

Other Considerations

- Check nearby services
 - Closest gas?
 - Cell service?
Don't rely on it even if you expect to have it.
 - Emergency services?
Is there a campground host?
Ranger station? Emergency room?
- Check campsite amenities
 - Water?
 - Bathrooms?
- Expected road conditions?
 - Dispersed camping may have poor roads
 - Know what your vehicle is capable of and don't push it
 - Getting stuck will be expensive and could be dangerous

Pinnacles National Park



Questions?



Getting Gear



Basic Gear List

adapted from REI's [Camping Checklist](#)

Campsite

- tent
- sleeping bag (down is great)
- sleeping pad
- headlamp/flashlight/lantern
- camp chairs

Tools

- rope/paracord
- multi-tool/knife
- duct tape
- small broom/dustpan
- mallet/hammer/axe

Health

- first aid kit
- toiletry kit
- hand sanitizer
- toilet paper
- sun protection
- insect repellent

Clothes

- layers
- more layers
- raingear
- camp shoes





Food

Equipment

- stove and fuel
- lighter
- pots/pans/utensils
- cups/mugs
- mess kits
- cutting board
- cooler, ice
- trash bags
- paper towels
- camp suds

Meal Ideas

- instant oats
- pita & hummus
- pasta/mac n cheese
- burgers/hot dogs
- chili
- soft tacos
- rice+bean burritos

One-pot, minimal
clean-up meals are best



Where to Borrow & Rent

You might already have:

- Sleeping pad → yoga mat
- Sleeping bag → blanket

Borrowing and Renting:

- Friends
- [Outdoor Adventure Rentals](#)
at the Lyon Center
- [REI Gear Rentals](#)
- Peaks & Profs?



Where to Buy

- Retailers
 - **REI** Store-brand and name brand gear from entry-level to top-of-the-line.
\$20 lifetime membership for 10% off, access to additional sales
 - Most gear companies are consumer and environmentally friendly; long return/replace windows, sustainably sourced materials
 - **Amazon / Walmart / Target** Cheaper gear, range in quality, can lack consumer and environmental guarantees of other brands; good for occasional use/trying out camping
- Outlet stores & used gear stores
 - **REI Outlet & REI Good & Used** Deals on previous-season and used gear
 - **Manufacturer Outlets & Used stores**
- Gear swap and selling groups
 - Facebook Marketplace



Questions?



Being Safe & Responsible



Campfire Safety

- Check regulations before you go
 - [Campfire permit](#) needed to operate fires and stoves on public lands
- Fire safety
 - **Never leave a fire unattended**
 - Have a **shovel and bucket of water** to extinguish the fire before you start making it
 - **Clear the area** around the firepit; fire must always be build in a safe firepit
 - **Keep fires small**; flames should not be taller than the firepit is wide
 - **Don't leave until the coals are cold** enough to touch
- Environmental considerations
 - Burn wood where you buy it
 - Prevents the spread of pests and diseases
 - Check regulations about gathering firewood; never collect firewood from living trees
 - Use existing fire pits; don't build your own



Handling Food & Waste

- Secure your food
 - Many developed campsites offer animal-proof storage
 - Bears break into vehicles, open coolers
- Be prepared to pack all trash out
 - If dumpsters/trash cans are full, don't leave trash next to them
 - **Bring plenty of trash bags**
 - Secure trash with your food
- Human waste
 - *Pit toilets:* **only** toilet paper and human waste
 - *No toilets:* bury waste/TP 6" deep, at least 200' from water, away from campsites
 - **Go before you go**





Be Considerate of Others

- Be mindful of noise
 - Respect posted quiet hours in campgrounds
 - Other people probably don't want to hear your music in camp; keep volume down
 - Don't bring bluetooth speakers on hiking trails
- Dogs
 - We love them, but they aren't wildlife
 - Research dog restrictions before you go
- Reduce environmental impacts
 - The outdoors is a shared resource
 - Leave your campsite better than you found it

Questions?

