



## Round River Program Essentials Packing List

While the complete packing list covers everything you might need, this essentials guide focuses on the critical items that will make your experience smooth and enjoyable. These are the must-have, big-ticket items that you'll rely on throughout your journey. Be sure to prioritize these when packing to ensure you're well-prepared for the semester ahead.

### Chile, Canada, Mongolia, and USA Programs

#### Camping Equipment

- Tent, 3-season backpacking
  - Each student must have his or her own tent. It should be durable, waterproof, windproof, and have enough room for you and your gear. It is extremely important that your tent is high-quality, and that it can withstand three months of camping in very high winds, rain, possible snow, as well as sun exposure. We do NOT recommend bringing an ultra-light tent. We recommend a 2-person tent. You will sleep in this every night while at base camp and will have the option to share tents with one other student when backpacking.
  
- Sleeping bag
  - Your sleeping bag should be lightweight and suitable for backpacking but should also be high quality and warm enough for you.
  - Patagonia and Mongolia: A bag rated to *at least 15°F*. You may want a warmer bag (i.e. 0°F), especially if you are typically cold at night.
  - Canada and USA: A bag rated 15 to 30°F.
  
- Sleeping pad
  - Your sleeping pad must be lightweight and warm, with an R-value between 3-5.
  
- Large backpacking backpack (at least 65L, larger recommended)

## Field Equipment

- Binoculars
  - Each student will need a pair of binoculars; you will use these daily. High quality binoculars are a very good investment, will not become obsolete, and can last a lifetime. Binoculars should be 8x to 10x power. [8 x 42 or 10 x 42](#) are good sizes to consider. A few good options are from [Vortex](#) and [Nikon](#), and [Eagle Optics](#) and [B&H Photo](#) are good online vendors.
  
- Laptop Computer with offline text-editing software (e.g. Microsoft)

## Clothing/Footwear

- Sturdy hiking boots with ankle support
  - You will wear your hiking boots almost every day on mountainous, rocky, and steep terrain, therefore good hiking boots are indispensable. Please make sure your boots are sturdy, comfortable, are water resistant, and provide ankle support. We recommend high quality leather or Gore-tex boots.
  
- Warm puffy outer layer jacket
  - Check weather and climate information on our program pages. We recommend 2 puffy outer layer jackets of varying weights for our Chile program

## Botswana Program

### Field Equipment

- Binoculars
  - Each student will need a pair of binoculars; you will use these daily. High quality binoculars are a very good investment, will not become obsolete, and can last a lifetime. Binoculars should be 8x to 10x power. [8 x 42 or 10 x 42](#) are good sizes to consider. A few good options are from [Vortex](#) and [Nikon](#), and [Eagle Optics](#) and [B&H Photo](#) are good online vendors.
  
- Laptop computer with offline text-editing software (e.g. Microsoft)

## Belize Program

### Camping Equipment

- Camping hammock
  - Each student must have their own camping hammock. Hammocks should be double-lined and have a mosquito net. It is extremely important that your hammock is high-quality, and that it can withstand a semester of camping in high heat and humidity, rain, and sun exposure. You will sleep in this every night while in the field. Some examples can be found [here](#).
  
- Sleeping pad
  - Your sleeping pad must be lightweight and fit within your hammock for colder nights
  
- Large backpacking backpack (at least 65L, larger recommended)

### Field Equipment

- Binoculars
  - Each student will need a pair of binoculars; you will use these daily. High quality binoculars are a very good investment, will not become obsolete, and can last a lifetime. Binoculars should be 8x to 10x power. [8 x 42 or 10 x 42](#) are good sizes to consider. A few good options are from [Vortex](#) and [Nikon](#), and [Eagle Optics](#) and [B&H Photo](#) are good online vendors.
  
- Laptop Computer with offline text-editing software (e.g. Microsoft)

### Clothing/Footwear

- Sturdy hiking boots with ankle support
  - You will wear your hiking boots almost every day on mountainous, muddy, and steep terrain, therefore good hiking boots are indispensable. Please make sure your boots are sturdy, comfortable, are NOT water resistant, and provide ankle support. Hiking in Belize is wet and humid, so boots that can dry quickly and drain water are recommended.