



LKS Outfitters, LLC– Lic. # 3423

**PO Box 6880
Eagle, CO 81631**

Phone: (970) 343-4460

Evan Koster, Manager
e.koster@ftguides.com

FlatTopsWildernessGuides.com

Summer (Horseback/Fishing) Gear List

General Considerations

The best gear you can bring is the right state of mind. Enjoy the wilderness! Colorado serves up a high percentage of perfect sunny days in the summer; the fish bite all day, wildlife abounds and there are mind boggling views. However, the area is a remote and wild place. Weather and many other variables can affect your trip. Having the right attitude for this type of trip can make or break your experience.

Our day trips are perfect for trying out new gear, but use all your gear before bringing it on multi-day trips. This especially applies to boots, day pack and safety equipment. New boots should be worn and broken-in before arrival. Making sure your day pack fits well will make your trip more enjoyable.

If you are coming with a group, please try to limit duplicate items. Work with each other to organize who brings what. Everywhere we go requires pack stock. We want to avoid packing unneeded weight. This lessens the impact on the wilderness (less pack animals used) and allows staff to focus on guiding activities instead of caring for more pack animals.

The weather in June-August is usually sunny with highs in the 55-70 degree range and nighttime temps in the 40-50 degree range. Afternoon rain showers are common. Keep in mind, at altitude, any day can become a winter day. A large portion of our area is around 10k to above 11k. On day trips, you can get away with most all clothing materials as long as you make sure to bring decent rain gear.

On multi-day trips, **stay away from cotton**. When cotton gets wet it is useless and it will exacerbate cold or wet weather's effect on your body. Focus on wool and synthetics. There is a lot of newer technology clothing that is lightweight, packable, warm and dries quickly.

Please don't hesitate to give us a call/email about any specific gear questions!

Day Trips

Rain Gear

- We will provide slickers on your riding horses. This rain protection is ideal for riding, but not well suited for other activities. If your group is planning on hiking or fishing while off of the horses, bring comfortable rain gear. Any of the options available at sporting goods stores and other retailers work. Also, most day-to-day rain jackets are fine. “Water resistant” clothing will not work, “waterproof” is a must.
- Cheap, plastic rain ponchos are useless. They will not keep you dry.

Clothing

- **Bring layers.** Daily mountain temperature fluctuations will amaze you.
- Merino wool and synthetics make great base layers.
- **3-Layer Outerwear System:**
 - Light Insulation (synthetic hoody, fleece, vest, etc.)
 - Heavy Insulation (puffy jackets offer the best warmth-to-weight ratio)
 - Shell (A waterproof rain jacket)
- *This may seem like a lot of clothing for a summer trip, but it is better to be prepared for adverse weather than surprised by it!*
- **Brimmed Hat**
- **Jeans or Long Pants**
 - **Do not wear shorts.** Your pants should be resistant to dirt, mud, and brush,
 - Jeans are the most comfortable for riding.
 - If you will be fishing, bring synthetic pants or long underwear to wear beneath your waders.
 - Some fishermen choose to wet-wade on warmer days. If that is your plan, bring a second pair of dry pants for the ride home.
- **Gloves**
 - A light pair of gloves will keep your hands warm on chilly mornings. They also can protect your hands while riding.

Shoes/Boots

- Closed-toe durable shoes are a must. Avoid sandals, crocs, slippers, high-heels, etc.
- Cowboy boots are great for riding, but not necessary.
- Bring warm socks.

Other/Miscellaneous



- **Water Bottle**
- **Bug Spray**
- **Sunscreen**
- **Sunglasses**
- **Phone/camera**
- **Binoculars**
 - Small, compact binoculars are a great addition if you are interested in wildlife-watching.
- **Snacks**
 - We provide meals and snacks on our trips, but many folks choose to bring their own preferred snacks for their saddlebags.
- ***If you have been prescribed an Epi-Pen, please do not come on this trip without one.***

If trip is focused on guided fishing:

- We provide basic spinning or fly fishing gear and tackle (rods, reels, flies/spinners, tippet, etc.), but if you are more than a beginner fisherman, we suggest you bring your own equipment. Our gear is fairly simple and best suited for beginners.
- Trade in normal sunglasses for polarized.
- **Day pack or hip pack**
 - For hiking into fishing spots
- **Small Flash Light or Headlamp**
- **Waders**
 - A pair of lightweight waders are useful even on small mountain streams.
 - Bring wool or synthetic socks and a synthetic pant layer that fits well beneath waders.
 - If you choose to wet wade, consider bringing a pair of neoprene socks/gravel guards. They will keep your boots warm and free of debris in our frigid cold lakes and streams.

Please purchase a fishing license before arrival

Multi-Day Trips



Boots and Footwear

I - Primary Pair of Waterproof Hiking Boots

- Visit a retail location so you can try on different boot models. Fit is essential.

I - Secondary Pair of Boots/Shoes

- In September, a pair of lightweight hiking shoes can work well as camp/backup footwear. Many of the newer trail running shoes offer Gore-Tex membranes and are comfortable/effective for light mountain hiking. Choose something less aggressive and lighter weight than your primary boots. They will work in a pinch if your primary boots fail. A backup pair of footwear also allows you to dry out your primary boots and be more comfortable around camp.

I - Pair of Camp Shoes

- Something easy to pack like Crocs or moccasins are great when you are inside your sleep tent.

4 - Pairs Sock Liners

- Thin liner socks will help you avoid blisters and allow you to pack fewer pairs of primary socks.

4 - Pairs Primary Socks

- Even in September, the best option is heavy-cushion wool.
- Darn Tough and Smartwool make great socks.
- If you tend to have warm feet, bring lightweight wool socks in place of your liner socks. If the weather is warm, you can just wear the lightweight socks.

Gaiters (optional)

- Great in snow and/or rain. They also work well in high, frosty or dewy vegetation. They will keep your boots and feet dryer and warmer.

Base Layer Clothing

2 - Pairs of Base Layer Sets (Top and bottom)

- Synthetics and merino wool are best.
- Merino tends to hold less odor and is preferred as a next-to-skin layer.
- Get different weights so you have flexibility for temperatures.
- Zip-off varieties are great when mornings are crisp and days are warm. When the temperature rises, you can peel them off without removing your boots.
- You can substitute merino or synthetic boxer shorts if you know you run warm.

Mid Layer Clothing

2 – Lightweight Long Sleeve Shirts

- Your shirts should offer some sun-protection.

1 - Mid-weight Shirt

- Quarter-zips and lightweight hoodies make an ideal mid-weight shirt.

1 - Pair of Lightweight Pants

- Soft, stretchy, synthetic materials that dry quickly make great summer hiking/fishing pants.

1 - Pair Mid-weight Pants

- Jeans or Carhartt pants are great for riding and lounging around camp.

Outerwear System (3 Layers: Light Insulation, Heavy Insulation, Shell)

- To be prepared for adverse weather, you should carry your outerwear system every day.

1 - Lightweight Insulation (A vest, fleece, hoody, or jacket)

1 - Heavy Insulation (Puffy jackets have the best warmth/weight ratio)

1 - Softshell Jacket (Must have wind-stopping attributes)

1 - Full Set of Rainwear (Don't forget rain pants)

Other Clothing

2 - Pairs of Gloves

- Bring one light and one heavy set of gloves.
- Hot Hands, Little Hotties, and other air-activated hand warmers are a great way to keep your fingers toasty inside a glove or pocket.

1 – Brimmed Hat or Cap

1 - Warm Hat and/or Balaclava



- Beanies fit nicely in a pocket when you aren't using them and offer a lot of warmth when needed.

I - Lightweight Buff or Neck Gaiter

- Serves as a dual-purpose piece of clothing. On hot days, it can be used for sun protection. On cold days, it offers a little bit of warmth.

Tool Gear

2 – Head Lamps

- Bring a light with both white and red bulbs.
- Bring an extra in your daypack.

Extra batteries for all equipment

- Examples: AAA (headlamps/flashlights,)

Day Pack

- Choose a comfortable day pack in the 1,300-2,200 cubic inch range

Camera/Smartphone

Charging Devices and Chords

- Bring all the necessary power chords to charge your devices
- Power banks have become affordable and readily available in recent years.
- For a week in the wilderness, bring at least two power banks to keep your devices charged.

Water Bottles and Hydration Bladder

- If you choose to use a bladder, bring a Nalgene-type bottle for around camp.

Water Purification System

Many of our guides carry water purifiers, but a light weight personal purifying method makes water stop quicker and easier.



- The most common way we sanitize water in camp is by boiling or using a gravity filter. However, on long day hikes when you need to refill your water bottle in the field, having a lightweight purifying mechanism is great.
- Electrolyte tablets, powders, and concentrates improve the taste of purified water (tablet purified, filtered, or boiled) and add an energy boost.

Personal Gear

Sleeping Bag

- For summertime, a 10-20 degree rated bag is best.
- You can always unzip if you are too warm.
- We prefer non-mummy type bags for comfort, but this is personal preference

Personal Hygiene and Medication Items

- Make sure you have enough of any prescriptions
- If you have had anaphylaxis (allergic reaction) to bees or other insects, please carry an Epi-Pen at all times.
- Pepto-Bismol and other routine medications can be helpful
- A travel-size bottle of Gold Bond Powder is helpful in relieving chafe, blisters and dealing with “monkey butt.”
- Bring altitude medication if you have a history of altitude sickness.
- Carry personal Aspirin as an immediate treatment for heart attack or pain.

(We carry extensive first aid kits in our guided camps. These include basic medication like Ibuprofen, Aspirin, Pepto, Imodium)

Baby Wipes

- No better bathroom wipe around!

Chapstick and Sunscreen

Bug Spray

Sunglasses

Eyeglasses, Contacts and Solution (If you wear them)

Binoculars

- Small, compact binoculars are a great addition if you are interested in wildlife-watching.



Soft Duffle Bags (To pack most your gear in for packing on mules. Dry bags work great.)

- Bags must weigh less than 35lbs a piece.
- Water, camera, clothing layers, and snacks are allowed in saddlebags. Other gear is not allowed.
- Wearing day packs while riding is prohibited

Absorbent Personal Towel/Rag

Safety Gear

First Aid Kit

- Our guides carry first aid kits and our camps have first aid kits in them. Do not waste weight by carrying first aid items you won't use or do not know how to use. For example, if you don't have any wilderness medicine training, a zip lock bag with Band-Aids, gauze, Neosporin, tweezers, Benadryl, Moleskin, soap and Ibuprofen is plenty.
- If you are at risk of a heart attack, bring Aspirin.
- Bring an Epi-Pen if you are allergic to any insects. You must get these via doctor's prescription.

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