

Desert Ecology Equipment List

The key to a great trip is that everyone is comfortable, and being comfortable means having the right clothing and equipment for the conditions. The Desert Ecology Trip is no exception to this and in some ways may be a bit challenging due to the diversity of conditions we will find ourselves in. In the desert it may be quite warm while our time on the river or in the evenings might be quite chilly (the average temperature along the San Juan River between Bluff and Mexican Hat is 81 degrees in the day and 46 degrees at night, and we need to be prepared for wind as well). Of course the time we spend traveling to and from Mesa Verde and the San Juan River will be considerably different than the time we spend on the river. And, even though we will be in the desert southwest, we may even encounter rain. The key of course is being prepared.

Personal Travel Gear (kept in daypack & with each child, to be carried on plane)

- snacks for the first day's travel (granola bars work great here, no liquids allowed through airport security)
- empty reusable water bottle (it can be filled once we pass through security at the airport).
- notebook in ziplock plastic bag (an additional small journal will be given to each student by CFI)
- 2-3 pencils and a small pencil sharpener
- book(s), mp3 player, handheld game device to wile away the hours as we travel between destinations (optional)
- handkerchief/bandana
- extra eyeglasses and glasses retainers (for those with prescription eyeglasses)
- jacket (listed below)
- camera (optional)
- travel clothes - one set of extra clothes to change into for trip back (pants, shirt, socks, underwear). Place in a separate labeled bag in daypack, these will be left in the cars while we are on the river.
- casual/sport shoes (worn during travel, not used while on the river)
- small amount of spending money for travel stops

Camp Gear (to be transported by Charlie, not on flight)

- sleeping pad
- sleeping bag in waterproof stuff sack (okay to use garbage bag inside of stuff sack)
- small pillowcase (also in waterproof stuff sack as above)
- 2 extra garbage bags



- two 1-liter water bottles
- flashlight with extra batteries
- whistle
- waterproof camera (optional)
- toiletries including: toothbrush, tooth paste, soap, washcloth, small towel, & personal medications, (in a bag & packed in duffle mentioned below)
- sunscreen
- lip balm with sunscreen

* note: the groundcloth listed on the CFI equipment list is for tents or sleeping under the stars thus it is optional unless your family is loaning us a tent.

Clothing - dress in layers (to be transported by Charlie, not on flight - gear & clothing not kept in day pack or worn should fit in one duffle bag or small pack)

- 1 pair pants
- 1 long sleeve shirt (both for sun protection and for warmth when needed)
- several short sleeve T-shirts
- 1 pair shorts
- bathing suit
- light weight synthetic long underwear tops & bottoms
- rain jacket and pants
- warm fleece jacket/sweater
- warm hat/stocking hat
- sun hat or cap (broad-brimmed hat preferable for sun protection)
- gloves
- river shoes (tennis shoes or sandals with a heel strap, these will get wet frequently)
- hiking shoes
- 1-2 pair of wool or synthetic blend hiking socks
- several pair of athletic socks
- 5 pair underwear
- pajamas/sleepwear
- fleece jacket/sweater



Canyonlands Field Institute provides (**do not bring**):

- ✓ Wetsuits (as needed due to weather)
- ✓ Water resistant drybags on each raft (for our gear)
- ✓ Coast Guard Approved life jackets