



Survival Summit Essential Gear List

Thoughts:

Every person has basic survival needs, and everyone has different skill sets. No matter what gear you choose to carry, be sure you're learning how to use it in the field and training as often as possible. Many things that work for some may not work for you based on your skill or comfort levels.

Learning and practicing skillsets should always be a top priority. Getting to know your gear to be an extension of yourself is vital. There is nothing worse than getting into a bad situation and only realizing your equipment is trash.

The more skill you have, the less gear you may need. The more in shape you are, the more gear you can carry, and visa-versa. Do not get trapped in some prepper debates about why this or that is wrong or that there is only one way. Only by testing your gear and yourself in the field will you honestly know what works best for you.

This list is a baseline to meet your needs in various situations you may run into. We recommend carrying a baseline pack that you can quickly get to with most of this gear wherever you go—looking for instructional videos to learn new skills that you can then practice in the field? Look no further: [Survival Summit training videos](#) have you covered.

Backpacks:

5.11 Rush 72 (great if you're not trying to blend in, in a city)

5.11 Covrt 18 2.0 (New as of 2022)

Fire

BIC Lighter

Fresnel Lens

Kraftig 5" or 8" Ferro Rod

Exotac Beeswax Candles (a few to choose from) Continued next page...

Fatwood (or other ready to go tinder)

Shelter

Helikon Poncho or MIL-TEC Poncho (2 can make a shelter) **The MIL-TEC ponchos are highly recommended.**

100% Virgin Wool Blanket(s) and/or sleeping bags

Snugpak SF Bivvy

Paracord 100'

#36 Bank Line

Snugpak Ionosphere or Snugpak Scorpion Tent (optional)

Snugpak SF Sleep system (Winter / Cold weather areas)

Water

Pathfinder Single Wall Stainless Steel Bottle & Cup Set

Grayl GeoPress, and/or Saywer Micro Squeeze

Cotton Shemagh

Camelbak bladder for your backpack (adds a lot of weight when full)

Food

Emergency Rations (Brands: Datrex, SOS)

Making Pemmican ([YouTube Video](#))

Foraging books: <https://theforagersguidetowildfoods.com/>

First Aid

Quality IFAK (first aid kit and trauma, include Moleskin for blisters)

Extra CAT Tourniquet

Trauma Shears (if they don't come in your kit)

Mylar Emergency Blanket

Navigation

Suunto Global Compass 1:25 scale

Pace Beads

Local Topographical Maps mytopo.com 1:25 scale

Waterproof Notebook and Pencil

Garmin GPSMAP 64ST (rechargeable Lithium Battery is separate but well worth it). Garmin makes many great handheld GPS units.

You should learn land navigation 100%, but the chance you'll always have a 1:25 or 1:24 scaled topo map specific to where you might be at the time of a crisis is almost zero. Those are for pre-planned routes and set locations, and if you're not always at home, you'll need an alternate plan. There is nothing wrong with an actual GPS. Today's technology is insanely lightweight and easy to recharge with mini solar panels. But again, you still need to learn Land Navigation! Just don't let yourself be boxed into one way of thinking. Most experts have decades of experience and don't need to rely on as much gear as most people.

Signaling items

Nitecore Flashlight (headlamp or handheld) Newer models can recharge via cable.

Fenix, Surefire, and Streamlight are also good brands.

Rechargeable Nitecore batteries (recharge via mini [Solar Charger 25000 MAH](#))

Flashlights: Old school thinking says only AA or AAA batteries because they're abundant. Mini solar panels and today's lithium batteries are far superior, and the newest batteries charge without an actual charger by plugging right into the battery or flashlight itself) Some newer Nitecore flashlights on super low settings can run for 350 hours at 5000 MAH.

Signal Mirror and Whistle

Inmarsat Isatphone2 Satellite Phone (free phone with specific plans) Today's monthly pricing for around 60-100 minutes a month is comparable to cell phone plans. Why not have an emergency device when you have zero cell phone signal? You can even sign up for search and rescue insurance for only \$30/month. Most people go for Iridium Sat. phones, but it's much more expensive and likely unnecessary for most people.

Tools

Small Solar Charger 25000 MAH (recharges GPS, Flashlight, Cell phone, Sat. phone)

Mora Carbon Garberg, Mora Bushcraft, or favorite knife

Silky Saw (many to choose from)

Gear Repair Kit with a sewing needle

Hults Bruk Hatchet (Mostly needed for Winter)

Your firearm, holster, and mag carriers of choice

Escape and Evasion Tools (spread around on your person)

Warrior Poet Rifle Sling (if you're carrying a long weapon)

Supplemental items

Wool Socks (a couple of pairs) and an extra t-shirt

Hygiene Kit

Insect repellent

Any required medication

Weather appropriate clothing and gear

Winter and other supplemental gear

You're not going to fit all of your gear in one pack depending on the time of year and supplement gear you may need. Some people pull sleds on foot or traveling in a vehicle and have different supplemental kits in other packs.

Fitness (often overlooked)

Whether you pack super light or heavy, your fitness level matters. If you can't walk a few miles without a pack, imagine how you'll do with a pack on. There are many fitness programs out there to help get you in shape.

Try to walk and/or hike as often as possible, first without gear, and then eventually start to add more weight. You can do basic exercises such as air squats in your home to build up your leg strength as well.

New Film

Upcoming film: Ultimate Bug-in and Home Defense, Starring EJ "Skullcrusher" Snyder. Get on the [mailing list](#) to be notified when this new film launches.