



Helping Youth Succeed



Greetings!

One of the things that separates Alaska Crossings from other programs is the focus and duration of our expeditions. Alaska Crossings is about real expeditions, in remote country, with great participants!

As a field guide with Alaska Crossings, the quality of your gear is very important. As a professional guide we expect you to have dependable gear. Southeast Alaska is not a place to get 'one more season' out of a tired sleeping bag, or to find out if your dry suit is water tight or not.

It is important for you to know that we do not lend gear out to guides for their programs. There are, of course, some notable exceptions. We understand that sometimes things just happen; new gear comes late in the mail or you tear a hole in your dry bag on a barnacle.

We provide all expedition and group equipment as well as all participant gear. We ask you to be responsible for yourself. Below you will find a couple different lists: Some Provided Group Gear, Required Personal Gear, and some Suggested/Optional Personal Gear. Take a look, explore some options and have fun! Please remember, as an Alaska Crossings field guide, you do have access to our pro deals. That information is in a separate document.

Feel free to call us with any questions!

Alaska Crossings Administrative Team

Provided Group Gear

Listed below are some of the items that Alaska Crossings provides. If you have questions about other gear that isn't listed below, just ask! This list is not all-inclusive; it is just to give you an idea.

- 1 GPS per group
- 1 Delorme in reach per group
- 1 global star satellite phone
- 1 Waterproof Camera per group¹
- Computer and extra power sources
- 1 VHF Radio per guide
- 2 First Aid Kits per group
- 1 Set Flares per guide (Emergency Signaling and Bear Deterrent)
- 1 Bear Spray per guide
- Tents for hike and River expeditions
- 1 Hiking Chest Harness per guide
- 1 Paddling Equipment Vest per guide
- River Rescue equipment (as needed)
- Paddling Gear: Canoes, Spray Decks, Rescue Throw Bags, Painter Lines, Bailers
- Kitchen Gear: Pots, Pans, Kettle, Stoves, etc.
- Associated Group Gear: Group Tarps, Bear Fence, Water Dromedaries, Water Treatment, etc.
- All Maps and Charts

¹ PLEASE NOTE: Due to HIPAA/Client Confidentiality, personal cameras are not allowed.

Required Personal Gear

We have high expectations of your ability to take care of yourself and to be self sufficient while working at Alaska Crossings. The items listed below are the required items. Below the list you will find some insider information - suggestions, ideas and guides preferences.

- **Rain Jacket:** Rubbers, Gore-Tex, or Grundens. Mid or heavyweight Grundens rubber rain coat is best and pretty much necessary for most long, rainy days or in the shoulder season. A lightweight rubber coat (such as Helly Hansen Voss rain jacket) or Gore-Tex is ideal to have as well for mobility around camp, less rainy days, in the summer and when bushwhacking on the mountain.
- **Rain Pants:** Rubbers, Gore-Tex, or Grundens. Just like raincoats, it's ideal to have two pairs of rain pants. You will be sitting down or kneeling (often, in a puddle) for hours each day while paddling, at mealtime/group, and when caring for kids at bedtime. Heavyweight rubber Grundens bibs or Viking (less expensive, lower-quality available at Angerman's in Wrangell) are best. It's very helpful to have lightweight rubber or Gore-tex bibs/pants so you don't get bogged down or overheated on nicer days or when on the mountain.
- **Clothes and appropriate layers:** NO COTTON! Remember: beanie/toque, ball cap, gloves (most guides carry a couple different kinds: fingerless gloves for typing, rubber gloves for paddling, over mitts for the mountain, fleece or atlas gloves for camp), undies, synthetic jacket, nylon shorts, base layers and socks (either wool/wool blend or synthetics).
- **Hiking Boots:** Boots should extend above the ankle; either leather or Gore-Tex and the less stitching the better. For coastal hikes groups don't move much more than 1-2 miles a day on the mountain, but there are no trails and guides will often travel farther than kids (scouting the route, going back and forth to assist kids at different paces), so comfortable, broken-in boots are best. Water-proof them with gaiters as well as plastic bags between socks and boots.
- **Gaitors** for hiking the mountain
- **Xtra Tuff Rubber Boots and Insoles, Viking Rubber Boots, or Grunden Deck Boss:** these boots should be 16 inches tall and can be purchased in Wrangell at Angerman's Inc. You need a stable and durable rubber boot fitted properly to your foot. Please inquire with us before purchasing any other brand. XtraTuf's are the most common. You can get regular or insulated ones. Guides who work in the shoulder seasons sometimes get boots a size larger than normal to accommodate Bama Booties, wool socks, and wool insoles worn all together to stay warm.
- **River Shoes:** closed-toe shoes, (old tennis shoes, amphib shoes or closed toe Keens)
- **Sleeping Bag:** synthetic sleeping bag with at least a 3-season rating for 0°-20°F. For training and shoulder seasons temperatures can be in single digits not including wind chill. 0 degree is the average go to for most guides.
- **Sleeping Pad:** Therm-a-rest or another brand with at least a ¾ pad.
- **Tarp with P-cord:** we provide tents for the river and mountain expeditions, but we use tarps on the ocean. Some guides use basic tarps from the hardware store (10' x 12' at least). Many use the silicone-treated MEC Guides tarp as they're lighter and more durable. Attach p-cord to 6 points before training expedition. Be generous with it! You can't have tarp strings that are too long.
- **Ground Sheet:** 6-10 mil visqueen (available in Wrangell). Early in training a group of guides will often buy a big sheet of visqueen in Wrangell and cut it up to share
- **Internal Frame Backpack, minimum 80 Liters**
- **Canoe Paddle:** It is ideal to have two paddles: one specific to a flatwater environment and a spare for the river or rougher water. Bent shaft paddles are **NOT** appropriate for canoe training,

but may be appropriate for ocean days. At the successful completion of Alaska Crossings training and hiring, new staff are awarded an Ottertail, so you may want to spend your money on a wider rough water/river paddle.

- **PFD:** Type 3 or 5 USCG rated standard PFD
- **Dry Suit:** wrist, neck and ankle gaskets/sewn-in booties. Best option is to use Crossing's pro deal with Kokatat or level six if you're buying a new one.
- **Water Proof Canoe Bags.** Different brands and different sizes; all sorts of things are available. Guides tend to like the Seal Line Boundary Packs or some of the packs from NRS. The bags with handles or backpack straps are most popular for easy carrying on portages and low tides. Most (not all!) guides use one of the following systems:

- System One

- 1 x 115L Dry Bag for all their gear
- 1 x 20-40L Day Dry Bag
- Assorted other small dry bags (for Tarps, Dry Suits, etc.) if desired

- System Two

- 2 x 40-50L or 70L Bags for all their gear. We strongly encourage backpack straps as this makes things sooooo much easier! They only make these in 35 or 70L, so I suggest keeping it at 70L.
- 1 x 20-40L Day Bag
- Assorted other small dry bags (for Tarps, Dry Suits, etc.) if desired

- System Three

- 1 x 60L canoe barrel with backpack harness
- 1 x 40L Day Dry Bag

- **Water Bottle**

- **"Rite-in-the-Rain" notebook:** the smaller size seems more popular
- **Unbreakable Bowl for eating and spoon:** Attach the spoon to bowl with p-cord before training. Some guides carry spoon on their vest but bring a back-up just in case
- **Sunglasses:** polarized works best in water environments
- **Personal items:** bug repellent, Ibuprofen, Baby wipes, Gold Bond, Personal Vitamins or Medications, Face wipes, Glasses and Contacts, Sharpies, Pencils, Candy, Favorite Tea, Fancy coffee
- **Map/Chart Case:** SeaLine is a good brand. Get a large size of whatever brand you end up choosing, and it's helpful to attach a carabiner with p-cord before training so that the wind won't snatch it off your spraydeck while out on the water
- **Watch:** waterproof, of course!
- **Head Lamp (with back up batteries):** an extra headlamp is a good idea
- **Compass:** With sighting mirror, declination adjustment, 0-360 degrees. Suunto or Silva Ranger are great options, purchase on Amazon long before training. Angerman's sells them but usually they're about twice as much as online
- **Pocket Knife:** saltwater is harsh on knives. Good to make a p-cord tether or carry a leather case to keep your knife on you at all times.
- **Lighter:** get a few Bic lighters. Good idea to make a p-cord "necklace" to keep lighter dry, warm, and on your person.

Suggested/Optional Personal Gear

- Travel Alarm Clock *
- Personal GPS
- Batteries *
- Camp Shoes: Anything closed-toe (croc's are not recommended as they may be difficult to run in.) It's nice to have something to slip into at the end of the day or when it's hot
- Snow Shoes
- Ice Ax
- Shovel
- Trekking Poles
- Mug/Thermos *
- Crazy Creek Chair: * Or something similar or a butt pad. A basic foam knee pad works fine. It can be a huge relief to have to sit on and protect your rain gear or drysuit from the beach rocks/sticks. Many guides like crazy creeks for sitting up to write paper work at night in their tarps.
- Knee Pads: * Helpful for Flat Water Training during March and ocean crossings during program (where you paddle on your knees). Also helpful to keep your knees protected/dry while visiting kids at their tarps or while cooking.
- Repair kit: * For your rain gear, therm-a-rest, etc. Put together your own kit for patching your particular sleeping pad, rain gear, etc. as well as a needle and thread and zipper lube for your drysuit.
- Goofy Hats and "Fun Field Flare:" these are items you can get after training.
- Ziplocs and Trash Compactor bags: * You will line your backpack, sleeping bag stuff-sack, and clothing bag with plastic bags to keep everything as dry as possible. It helps to have smaller, durable Ziploc bags for toiletries, etc.
- River Helmet
- Bug Net: * Head net and a Jungle net that is set up under one's tarp (no-see-um net)
- "Triple Threat:" 3 small plastic bottles (3-4 oz.) bound together with electrical tape. These will be filled with hand sanitizer, bleach, and soap

* These are items that are most commonly used and found necessary by guides. For March training specifically, it's a good idea to bring an alarm, butt-pad, ziplocs and heavy-duty black contractor trash bags, a thermos, and extra batteries for headlamps.

March Training will be much easier if you purchase all your necessary gear EARLY! There are 3 hardware stores in Wrangell and 2 outerwear stores (Angerman's and 56 North). At Angerman's, you can buy XtraTufs, wool insoles, Viking and Grunden rain gear, hats, wool socks, some warm layers, compasses, dry bags, small plastic bottles, thermoses, p-cord, and wool fingerless gloves, among other little amenities. Keep in mind they have pretty limited inventory.