



WaterStone ACADEMY

Outdoor Skills | Survival Training
Unique Martial Arts | Guided Adventure Trips
Tutoring & Mentoring | Preparedness Consulting

www.waterstone.academy



Recommended GEAR GUIDE 3.0

Affiliate Links



We very much appreciate your use of our affiliate links with our friends at Stapleton's Great Adventure Company!

Their affiliate program is not yet set up with individual product links.

When an item is linked to one of the Stapleton's sites, please follow the instructions below.

Thanks for your patience!

Click the link that looks like this

At ADVENTUREGEAR.CA Search For:

Item Description Text

Then copy/paste the description text into the search box on the website!

MEC has provided quality outdoor gear to Canadians for decades. You can support them – and WaterStone Academy – by using our affiliate links to MEC.

If you would like to support us through purchases of *any* product on MEC.ca, please click on the MEC logo below to take you to their homepage via our affiliate link!



As an Amazon Associate, WaterStone Academy earns from qualifying purchases.

Amazon prefers that you access their store via the link on the WaterStone website, if possible. Click the link above to go to www.waterstone.academy/gear, then scroll down to the same picture as above. Any purchases you make from Amazon that way will count as affiliate purchases through WaterStone.



ON DUTY EQUIPMENT

NEW! WaterStone is Also Affiliated With This Great Supplier of Outdoor Gear

On Duty Equipment specializes in gear for first responders, police, military, search & rescue, and outdoor enthusiasts.

Other Recommended Sites



WaterStone Academy does not earn any commissions on purchases from these stores – but we do recommend that you explore the quality outdoor and adventure gear they have to offer!



WaterStone
ACADEMY
www.waterstone.academy

Takes You to the
WaterStone Academy
Website **GEAR PAGE**



Fire & Light



You Might As Well Get a Lot of These!
*One of the best fire-starters ever
invented. Carry several!*



At **ADVENTUREGEAR.CA** Search For:

Swedish FireSteel 2.0® Army by Light My Fire®
A good entry-level ferrocerium rod.



At **ADVENTUREGEAR.CA** Search For:

Fenix™ Flashlight Headlamps
*An excellent headlamp, very bright. Headlamps
are extremely helpful in outdoor situations,
especially where you want both hands free.*



**überleben Hexå
Fire Starter 1/2" Thick**
*My absolute favorite! Years
of fire-starting with very
high quality ferrocerium.*



**Streamlight Microstream
AAA Flashlight**
*An excellent EDC light. Uses
a single AAA battery.*



Petzl Actik Headlamp
*Petzl makes high-quality, long-lasting
headlamps. Get one with a red light
option to preserve both battery life
and your night vision!*





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Water & Food



Sawyer™ MINI Water Filter
One of the best water filters currently available. Inexpensive, long-lasting, compact, lightweight. Watch out! Check for various colors, 2-packs, etc. to find the best deal.



Pathfinder™ Stainless Steel Bottle & Nesting Cup Set
A tough and versatile bottle / cup / lid system. Boil water directly over the fire. Expect a lifetime of use.



Pathfinder™ Stainless Steel Canteen Cook Set
The ultimate Pathfinder water container, cup, and lid set. Boil water and prepare food directly over the fire. All pieces nest together into the standard G.I. canteen size.



At **ADVENTUREGEAR.CA** Search For:

Stow™ 500 mL Flask Water Bottle HydraPak®
A great way to carry a container in a compact way. Bonus: the threads are compatible with Sawyer water filters.

CLIF Protein Bars
Far superior to mere granola bars to provide long-lasting calories to keep you going. They keep for a long time.



WaterStone Academy Recommended Gear Catalogue



Triple Tree Stainless Steel Single-Wall Water Bottle
I use these as my EDC water bottles. Water stays fresh for longer than plastic bottles, and these can also be heated directly over the fire.





Knives & Tools



Victorinox Outrider Swiss Army Knife
The large-frame version of the Huntsman with a locking large blade.



Victorinox Huntsman Swiss Army Knife
In my opinion, the best combination of size, weight, quality tools, and value for your money. My EDC carry for decades.



Victorinox Classic Swiss Army Knife
So small, compact, and useful – why wouldn't you just carry one of these on your key ring or in your pocket? Many colors available.



At ADVENTUREGEAR.CA Search For:

Black Full Size KA-BAR® with Hard Nylon Sheath
This knife has accompanied me on every outdoor adventure for 30 years. Highly recommended.

Kershaw Camp 10 Machete
A very solid and compact machete with a great sheath. An excellent general-use camp tool.





Knives & Tools



**Byrd Robin Gen 2
2.5" Folding Knife**
A tough little knife that is so compact you can take it with you no matter what you are wearing.



**Cold Steel 4"
Voyager Drop Point**
Heavy duty steel with a patented locking mechanism that won't let you down. Steel liners and Griv-Ex handles ensure a lifetime of use.



Victorinox SwissTool
My favorite plier tool. Heavy-duty, versatile, and every tool is individually sprung with a locking mechanism. Rides with me on my belt every day for 3 decades so far, and still works like new.

**Cold Steel Drop Forged
Survivalist Knife**
This incredibly solid outdoor tool gives my old Ka-Bar a run for its money – and is superior in some ways. One of the very best batoning knives I've ever used.





At ADVENTUREGEAR.CA Search For:

Thermal Emergency Blanket by TrailSide

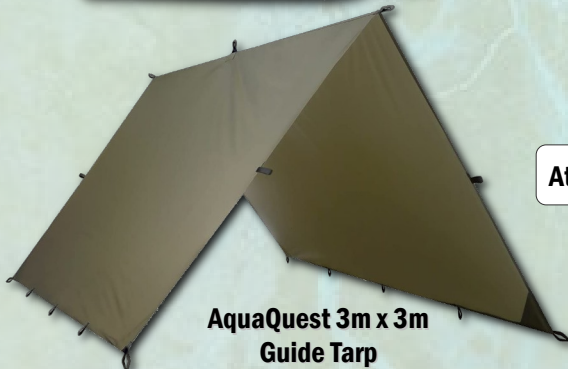
So small, light, and inexpensive that everyone should carry them in their packs and their vehicles.

Shelter



SOL Escape Bivy
Breathable / Reusable

A light and compact way to keep warm during an unplanned overnight, but I have also used this bivy as a sleeping bag during summer and early autumn camping trips. Delicate, but reusable if you are careful.



AquaQuest 3m x 3m
Guide Tarp

A reasonably priced, lighter weight silicone tarp with lots of tie outs. I use these in my courses.



At ADVENTUREGEAR.CA Search For:

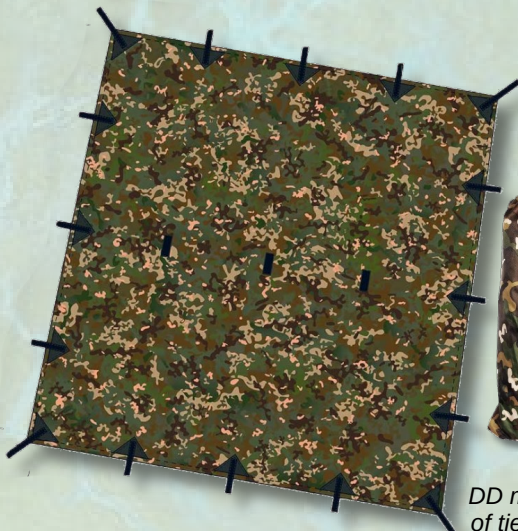
7 Inch Aluminum Tent Peg
by Chinook®

I always carry 4-6 pegs with every tarp. Though you can use sticks, I've found these to be worth the weight.



AquaQuest 3m x 3m
Defender Tarp

A heavier, more robust tarp option.



DD 3.5m x 3.5m Tarp Kit

DD makes very high quality tarps with plenty of tie-out points. There are a variety of sizes and colors. This is the one I personally carry in my Grab & Go Pack





Shelter



Helikon-Tex Rain Poncho / Tarp

Beware of cheap knock-offs. Proper military spec with heavy duty double brass snaps and solid grommets are the way to go if you want a poncho that lasts. These ones are top notch. Various colors available



Arcturus Heavy-Duty Survival Blanket / Tarp / Ground Sheet

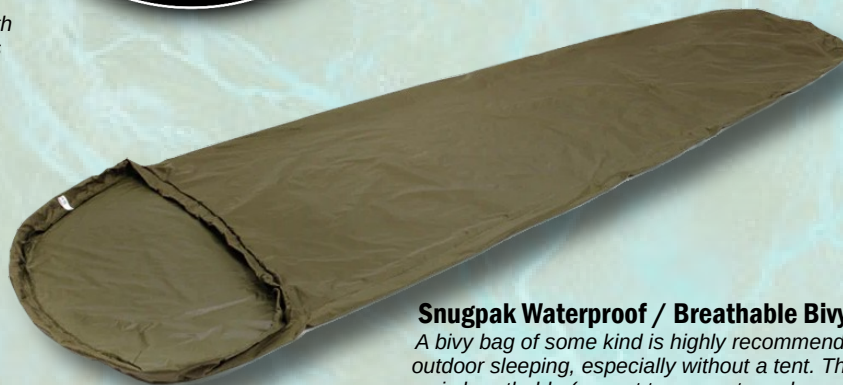
*A very helpful ground sheet, tarp, sit pad, and more. I find it adds a few degrees of warmth to a sleeping system. Various colors available, and can be different prices. **Check carefully!***



Helikon-Tex Swagman Roll:

Blanket / Poncho Liner / Sleeping Bag

An amazing concept. A poncho liner / blanket with a head hole & hood (many don't have this feature, surprisingly), but with a zipper installed so it can be used as a light sleeping bag (roughly equivalent to the "jungle bag" from the military modular sleep system. Can also be worn on its own as a camp coat.



Snugpak Waterproof / Breathable Bivy Bag

A bivy bag of some kind is highly recommended for outdoor sleeping, especially without a tent. This one is breathable (a must to prevent condensation inside), protects the rest of your sleep system, and adds another layer of warmth.



Arcturus Military Wool Blanket

4.5 Pounds, 80% Wool

If you are planning to sleep next to a campfire, you'll need a heavy-duty wool blanket to protect your sleep system from stray sparks. A good wool blanket adds a lot of insulation value, too – even if it happens to get wet. Many colors available.





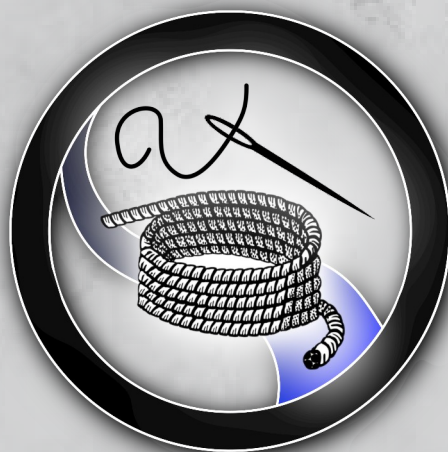
Cordage & Line



At ADVENTUREGEAR.CA Search For:

0.9 MM Micro Cord | 100 Feet

Very useful general-purpose cordage for numerous campcraft tasks. Small, light, and strong.



At ADVENTUREGEAR.CA Search For:

Single Barrel Cord Lock - Large - Rothco

Indispensable for making stuff sacks and improving or repairing drawstrings on clothing and other campcraft gear. Once you have a bunch of these around, you'll think of many uses for them!

Stapleton's Paracord

At ADVENTUREGEAR.CA Search For:

550 Paracord - Nylon

Carrying paracord as part of your EDC, and any time you venture into the wild, gives you the ability to solve many problems and invent ways to improve your situation. 550 cord comes in hundreds of colors and patterns. I always carry at least 2-4 25' lengths with me.

Stapleton's (Canada Paracord) is hands-down the top place to get cordage, with the best selection and prices in Canada.





Bags & Packs



5.11 RUSH 12 2.0 24L Daypack

A smaller version of the RUSH 24, narrower and shorter. Does not fit a standard binder, so not optimal as a school bag. Various colors available.



5.11 RUSH 12 2.0 37L Daypack

This has been my standard daypack for about 15 years, and still going strong. Large enough to use as a school bag. Various colors available.



Off-Brand RUSH TIER System Straps

Not the OEM 5.11 version, but more available and less expensive. I have added these to all of my 5.11 packs as extra compression / gear mounting straps.



Condor Compact Assault Pack

I use this as a daypack that fits inside my Grab & Go Pack. Compact, but lots of organization and solidly-built. Various colors available.



**WaterStone Custom Waistbelt
For RUSH Packs:
Contact Us to Order Yours!**



5.11 PUSH Shoulder Bag

The most comfortable shoulder bag I have used. Excellent as a haversack, camera bag, or EDC pack.



5.11 Flex Medium GP Pouch

An excellent admin pouch to attach to any MOLLE platform. Various colors available.

**Look at all 5.11
RUSH Packs Here**





Signalling



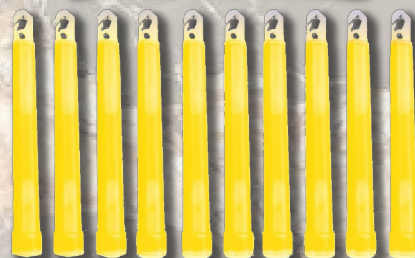
Fox40 Classic Signal Whistle
The industry standard in signalling. Many colors available.



Fox40 Micro Signal Whistle With Lanyard
A flatter version of the classic Fox40.



Coghlan's Signal Mirror
Get a signal mirror with a sighting window!



Cyalume ChemLights
Classic snaplights are very useful in a variety of situations. Lightweight and easy to add a few to your kit.



Baby Motorola T600 Talkabout FRS / GMRS 2-Way Radios
Some of the most versatile radios available. Excellent range, even in urban environments. Waterproof (submersible), flashlight, weather channels, emergency mode.



Baofeng UV-5R Ham Radios
Excellent radios, programmable with Chirp software on your computer (this set comes with a USB programming cable). Very versatile, plenty of accessories available.





Navigation



At ADVENTUREGEAR.CA Search For:

Cammenga G.I. Military Phosphorescent Lensatic Compass

This is the genuine military-issued model, and well worth the cost. Various colors available.



At ADVENTUREGEAR.CA Search For:

Ranger S Compass by Silva®
A good middle-of-the-road compass.



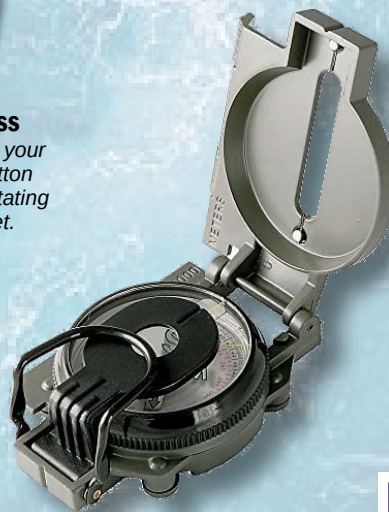
Suunto Clipper Compass

Nice to tuck in a pocket or on your watch strap. Unlike most button compasses, this one has a rotating bezel and a decent magnet.



Suunto MC-2 NH Mirror Compass

One of the best baseplate compasses available. Take care of it and it will last your whole life.



Brunton Lensatic Compass

Decent compass, but entry Level: not military spec. I teach basic navigation with a class set of these.





Medical



Adventure Medical Kit .5
I use this one in my smaller EDC packs.



Adventure Medical Kit .7
I use this one in my medium-sized daypacks.



Adventure Medical Kit .9
I use this one in my large Grab & Go pack.



Adventure Medical Kit Mountain Series Guide Kit
I take this one when I lead groups on trips. This would also be useful as a vehicle and home first aid kit.



Pro-Tec Kinesiology Tape
A very helpful addition to a first aid kit



Polysporin Triple Antibiotic Ointment
I always add a 15g or 30g tube to every first aid kit I carry. Put some on a band-aid when you treat a cut.





Cold Weather Gear



Therm-a-Rest Ridge Rest Classic

In cold and snowy conditions, I put this one down first, then the self-inflating Therm-a-Rest on top.



Arcturus Heavy-Duty Survival Blanket / Tarp / Ground Sheet

This protects your sleeping system from the snow and cold ground, while adding some reflective warmth in cold conditions. Various colors available, and can be different prices. Check carefully!



Therm-a-Rest Prolite Self-Inflating Sleeping Pad

This type of sleeping pad is what I use year-round for staying insulated from the ground and getting a comfortable night's sleep. In cold conditions, I put a closed-cell pad like the RidgeRest, above, underneath it.



Snugpak Waterproof / Breathable Bivy Bag

It's particularly important to have a waterproof layer over your sleeping system in cold conditions to prevent melted snow from making you wet.

MEC Hut Boots

Wear these inside your sleeping bag to say goodbye to cold feet on winter camping trips!



Arcturus Military Wool Blanket

4.5 Pounds, 80% Wool

If you are planning to sleep next to a campfire, you'll need a heavy-duty wool blanket to protect your sleep system from stray sparks. A good wool blanket adds a lot of insulation value, too – even if it happens to get wet. Many colors available.

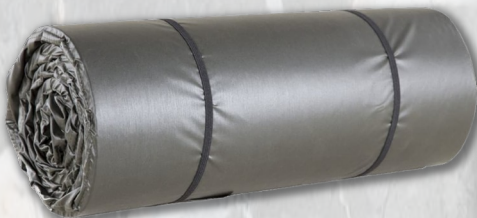




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Cold Weather Gear



Savotta Closed-Cell Foam Mat

Designed for the Finnish military, this is my absolute favorite base pad for sleeping outdoors in cold conditions. It is light, rugged, and has decent insulation properties. One side is rubberized to keep you in place. Its most prominent feature is the fold-out "skirts" that give your sleeping area a bit more real estate and really help to keep the snow off.

The link is for the Canadian company where I bought mine, though WaterStone is not an affiliate.



Balaclava or Toque

Part of getting a good night's sleep outside in cold conditions is to cover your head and face! Something like this Outdoor Research fleece balaclava will add considerable comfort to your night out in the snow.



US Military Surplus Modular Sleep System (MSS)

This is an interchangeable system of 2 sleeping bags (one lighter, rated to around 0°C, and one heavier, rated to around -20°C) plus a waterproof-breathable Gore-Tex outer cover ("bivy bag"). The three layers can be used individually or in any combination, snapping together if needed. This is a truly multi-season sleeping kit.

It can be tricky to find these, as they have been "surplus" items for many years now. They can still be discovered on a few military and outdoor gear websites (I've linked to a Canadian one, though it is not an affiliate link for me). You'll run into them on e-bay or other sites for used items sometimes, too.

*If you can land one for C\$300 – C\$500, I'd say you're getting a good deal. You can spend a lot more assembling something similar from retail stores. The biggest caution here is to verify the **condition** of the items. You'll want to go with "excellent" or "like new" – don't risk anything else.*

