

Smart Canoe Journey Gear **at Good Prices**

Shared by Nakani Native Program



The purpose of this article is help you find great canoe journey gear at great prices. It focuses primarily on clothing. It details the smartest, safest and most effective options to choose when deciding what is essential to pack. The portability of the gear, weather variability and activities of journeyers on the water as well as on land are all taken into account. Finally, this article will conclude with where you can get outdoor clothing and gear for better prices.

How much should I invest in my gear?

Before getting into specifics, it is important to note a warning before deciding where to shop or which option to choose when deciding what to buy. Take into consideration that cheap stuff may not be sturdy enough do the job well or might not last the entire journey.

For example, a cheap tent might not keep you dry, the fiberglass poles could break easily, the wind could whip it to shreds. Often better to pay a little more, get a little smaller tent and use if for multiple journeys then to get a cheap tent that will fail you when in tough weather.

Also, it is just as important to take into consideration that while expensive stuff might be neat to have and use, there is a possibility of it becoming lost, damaged or stolen.

It is easy to lose gear when transitioning from canoe to boat to van to camp. It is also hard to keep it safe from theft in an empty camp or while you leave it hanging on the hook outside your shower.

Where can we get good outdoor clothing and equipment at bargain prices for the canoe journey?

Canoe families want clothing that protects pullers from the elements-sun, rain, cold, heat and wind. Clothing is safety equipment. The crew is safer when everyone carries gear for any potential weather. Check with your canoe family leaders to find out what they require.

A suggested basic list of clothing to take on the water includes:

- Waterproof/breathable coat with hood;
- Cedar hat, or another hat that protects from sun and rain;
- short-sleeve shirt (e.g. t-shirt), preferably with zipper or buttons;
- long-sleeve shirt with buttons or zipper;
- light-weight long pants, or pants that have zip-off legs;
- underwear;
- water shoes or sandals.

None of these basics should be made of cotton. Cotton is cold and heavy when wet and takes forever to dry. The first items I add to the basic list: wind/rain pants and awarm vest and/or jacket; extra change of pants and shirt. Clothing not being worn should be kept in a dry bag.

“Layers are the instruments of keeping you dry, warm and using your energy efficiently. Put into the right systems, a good sequence of layers provides you with weather protection, moves moisture away from your skin, conserves or dissipates heat, and does this in the least amount of time.” (quoted from:

<https://arcteryx.com/us/en/shop/mens-layering-guide>)

Care and Feeding of Technical Clothing

Use products such as Nikwax to clean, maintain and revive technical clothing while saving money in the long run. If you don't, items like Gore-Tex will lose their special properties.

Learn more at: <https://www.nikwax.com/en-us/faq/index.php>

Retail Outdoor Clothing Stores

- Seattle Premium Outlet Mall in Quil Ceda Village

One-stop shopping In Tulalip at six great outdoor clothing retail outlets-- Arc'teryx Tulalip Outlet; Cabela's; The Columbia Factory Store; Eddie Bauer; Helly Hansen; The North Face.

- REI (Recreational Equipment, Inc.)

REI has nine stores in western Washington and four near Portland, OR.

their online outlet:

<https://www.rei.com/rei-garage>

Some stores sell returned gear for sale at big discounts. REI own branded gear is usually good quality. Not as fancy as the name brands, but a good value.

- Canada's leading outdoor retailer, MEC (Mountain Equipment Co-op)

Here is a link to MEC's section for CLEARANCE-- PADDLING AND WATERSPORTS:

<https://www.mec.ca/en/products/watersports/c/1550?f=featureCollection%3Aonclearance>

- Outdoor Research Seattle Store

OR's Seattle store has regular weekend sales during many 3-day holiday weekends. They have an "infinity" guarantee, great technical clothing and gear, including drybags. Follow Outdoor Research - Seattle Store to find out about upcoming sales.

"Outdoor Research gear is guaranteed to perform throughout the lifetime of the product."

1st Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98134 206-971-1496

Monday – Saturday: 9am - 6pm Sunday: 11am - 5pm

<https://www.outdoorresearch.com/us/en>

- Helly Hansen outlet at Seattle Premium Mall

I have found Helly's waterproof/breathable gear to be excellent at retaining those qualities.

- Cabela's and Bass Pro Shops (now one company)

Cabela's brags they are the "Foremost Outdoor Outfitter". They sell all kinds of stuff. Want cheap, reliable life vests that can fit a wide range of sizes? Cabela's Deluxe Adult Flotation Vest for \$15 or less. They have almost all the camping and safety supplies you need. Check out their "bargain cave".

Cabela's Retail Outlets:

British Columbia: Nanaimo; Tsawwassen; Abbotsford

Washington State: Lacey; Tacoma; Union Gap; Tulalip

<https://www.cabelas.com/>

Oregon: Springfield; Tualatin

- Bass Pro Shops in California:

Manteca, CA 95337, Rocklin, CA 95677, San Jose, CA 95118

- Ex Officio outlet near downtown Seattle

Ex Officio specializes in travel clothing, stuff that is easy to take care of, that is practical and helps you look like an American tourist who's trying to look like a cool world traveler.

"Come shop our newly remodeled Belltown store and let our expert EXOFFICIO sales team help you get outfitted for your next adventure."

"SINCE 1987, WE HAVE CELEBRATED THE TRAVELER BY CRAFTING GARMENTS THAT ALLOW YOU TO EXPERIENCE THE WORLD UNHINDERED. WE CREATE INTELLIGENTLY DESIGNED PRODUCTS WITH SURPRISINGLY TANGIBLE BENEFITS THAT FOCUS ON ONE GOAL – COMFORTABLE PERFORMANCE."

114 Vine Street, Seattle, WA 98121; 206.283.4746

Monday-Friday 10a - 6p; Saturday 10a - 5p; Sunday 11a - 5p

- Eddie Bauer Outlet Stores

Eddie Bauer sells clothing in a variety of sizes, including styles that can fit older, fat people. Some active wear clothing companies focus on sizes for younger, athletic people.

https://www.eddiebauer.com/storelocator/store_locator.jsp

- Columbia Factory Store

Columbia has over 16 outlets in California, Oregon and Washington.

- Costco

- Arc'teryx Factory Outlets

Quote from <https://bestreviews.com> : "Arc'teryx is one brand that is known for high quality winter jackets made of materials that can withstand cold temperatures, poor weather, and other challenging conditions." I would say they are one of the most cutting-edge brands. But that comes at a high price, so check out their outlets for bargains.

Arc'teryx Factory Outlet 100-2155 Dollarton Hwy, North Vancouver, BC V7H 3B2, 604-960-3119
Arc'teryx Tulalip Outlet, 10600 Quil Ceda Blvd, Tulalip, WA 98271, (360) 716-3991

<https://arcteryx.com/us/en/>

- **The North Face**

<http://www.thenorthfaceoutlet.us.com>

Great online deals at their online outlet.

Outlet locations:

Quil Ceda Village, Washington (on the Tulalip Reservation)

Woodburn Outlets, Oregon (South of Portland)

- Washington Coleman Outlet

316 Fashion Way, Burlington, WA 98233

<https://www.coleman.com/coleman-sale/>

Some Coleman gear is pretty good, some is pretty lousy. Shop carefully.

- For Discount Shopping Online

<https://www.steepandcheap.com>

<https://www.campmor.com/h/shop-by-sale/hot-deals>

<https://www.costco.com/camping.html>

<https://www.sierra.com/clearance~1/>

<https://www.backcountry.com/sale?fl=true>

<https://www.eddiebauer.com>

<https://www.gearx.com>

<https://www.rei.com/rei-garage>

<https://www.underarmour.com/en-us/outlet/g/6>

<https://www.cabelas.com>

<https://www.basspro.com/shop/en>

<https://www.mountaingear.com/sale/>

- Buying Guides:

<https://gearpatrol.com>

<https://www.outsideonline.com/outdoor-gear>

Used sporting goods:

- Play it again Sports

Locations: Seattle; Lynnwood; Marysville. Oregon: Beaverton; Corvallis; Eugene

Check out rummage sales and thrift stores if you have the time.

Suggestions?

This article was written and compiled by Jeff Smith and Crystal Ybarra of the Nakani Native Program

<https://www.nakani.org>