

Chugach Mountain Institute

Snow-Season Gear List

Lighter gear will allow you to go further and/or get more runs in. With clothing, consider warmth to weight ratio. Do not hesitate to ask questions about gear and clothing. CMI welcomes detailed discussion via phone or email and can provide specific recommendations. CMI will review your personal gear at the time of registration to make sure you're adequately equipped. More detailed information about clothing and gear will be provided for advanced objectives and multi-day trips.

1. Backcountry skiing/splitboarding rig
 - a. Skis/splitboard
 - b. Poles (adjustable 2 piece recommended for skiers, 3 piece for splitboarders)
 - i. Arrest device (whippet, ice axe) depending on conditions and objectives
 - c. Touring bindings
 - i. Ski crampons depending on conditions and objectives
 - d. Boots
 - i. Crampons depending on conditions and objectives
 - ii. Consider overboots for cold days and emergencies
 - e. Climbing skins
 - i. Skin wax and scraper for March-May trips
 - f. Repair tools and parts specific to your rig
2. Avalanche safety gear
 - a. Beacon/transceiver with spare batteries (digital with direction arrows and marking feature, model released within the past five years)
 - b. Probe (quality model with cable, locking mechanism, and cm markings)
 - c. Shovel (quality model made from metal specifically for backcountry use)
 - d. Snow saw (mandatory for avalanche courses, optional for guided tours)
 - e. ECT cord: 3m of 3mm cord with overhand knot tied every 15cm (mandatory for avalanche courses, optional for guided tours)
 - f. Small "Rite in the Rain" field notebook and pencil (mandatory for avalanche courses, optional for guided tours)
 - g. Compass with inclinometer (may use smart phone, current iOS has it built in)
 - h. GPS mapping app (Gaia highly recommended for L1, mandatory for L2, optional for guided tours)
3. Clothing (NO COTTON)
 - a. Layering system
 - i. Top and bottom base layer (i.e. long underwear)
 - ii. Mid layer (e.g. fleece hoody)
 - iii. Insulating layer (synthetic or down puff jacket)
 - iv. Shell (wind and waterproof jacket with hood)
 - v. Pants (softshell or hardshell depending on conditions and objectives)
 - vi. Emergency layers (puff pants and extra puff jacket)

- b. Socks (consider bringing an extra pair)
 - c. Gloves (bring at least two pair)
 - i. Lighter weight pair for the uphill (breathable, midweight softshell recommended)
 - ii. Heavier weight pair for the downhill (durable, waterproof shell that fits over softshell recommended)
 - iii. Mittens
4. Headwear
- a. Helmet
 - b. Sunglasses (cold-weather photochromic or two lenses, for intense sun and low light, recommended)
 - c. Goggles (low light, high contrast lenses recommended)
 - d. Ball cap
 - e. Warm beanie
 - f. Neck gaiter/balaclava
5. Backpack (35-45 liter recommended)
6. Headlamp with spare batteries
7. Insulated water bottle
8. Snacks and lunch
9. Sunscreen and lip balm
10. Personal 1st Aid and medicine (CMI guide carries 1st Aid, but if you have items you know you may need and that work for you, bring them)
11. Debrief food and clothing
- a. We'll spend some time reviewing the day and considering your future skill development. Consider bringing additional clothing and snacks that you can leave at the car park.