

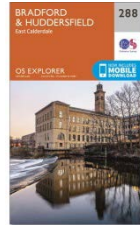
Compasses

- These are quite small and easily lost, that's why they have cord on them. Fasten them to something so you don't drop it and lose it. Do not put compasses round your neck as there is a hazard of strangling.
- Be careful not to store compasses together or near any source of strong magnetism, electrical devices or even drop them on a hard surface. Doing either of these there is a chance of demagnetizing a compass and it is then useless.
- Please make sure you hand them back in and tick off on the sign out sheet.



Maps

- Maps are very expensive so be careful how you treat them.
- Maps also have a tendency to get lost when they are out, either by the wind or leaving them behind. Take care of your map.
- Make sure you clean the map afterwards with a damp cloth and then leave it to dry.



Boots

- You will need a pair of boots to walk in with a good tread, which will protect your feet and give ankle support for the weight you'll be carrying.
- You can borrow boots from our stores but it is always advised to young people should buy their own as all feet are different.
- Buying boots is confusing and hard. If you intend to buy your own pair, make sure there is no movement of your foot in the boot when on and tied up, wear wicking socks when trying boots on, walk around the shop to get a feel for the boots, make sure your toes do not touch the end of your boot when going downhill. Make sure you buy some waterproof boots.



Gore-Tex lined boots can be very effective for keeping your feet dry. Also make sure if you do buy your own boots that they are well worn in before you use them on expedition.

Boot care

Taking care of your boots will mean you'll get the best life out of them.

If they are dry, brush off dirt, if that's not working a sponge and warm water only. Let them dry naturally. NEVER speed up the drying process by using any heat, the boots will crack and be ruined. You may use newspaper inside the boot to soak out some of the moisture from the boot.

When completely dry, you may wish to treat your boots to improve the Waterproofness. If fabric, spray them, or if leather use a light wax (e.g. Nikwax). Remove the laces and use your fingers to apply the wax as the heat helps it soak into the leather. Buff if you wish after. Keep them in a dry place, not too warm for next time.



Equipment Care Guide



This guide is to give you help and advice for the care of the equipment you have borrowed from the Kirklees DofE.

Good equipment can make the difference between an enjoyable or miserable experience. The equipment you use is also expensive, though if cared for properly will last for many years. This leaflet will cover all the equipment we have, how to look after it and what you should check before you return it.

Please take a little time to read this leaflet and follow the instructions because you maybe the next person to use something and you would want this equipment to be right next time for you.

General comments

- Please look after anything that you borrow as if it is your own.
- It is your responsibility to make sure you have the right equipment and enough for the group before the expedition.
- If you are going to keep your borrowed kit between practice and qualifier, you must clean and dry things at home.
- Everything must be cleaned and dry before you return it, damp things go mouldy and smell then we will have to throw it away!
- Any equipment you borrow but then do not intend to use must be returned before the expedition as other people may need to use it.
- Damaged kit will be billed to the group for a replacement piece of kit.



Tents

This is probably the biggest and most expensive piece of equipment you'll use. It is your home for the Expedition!

- When you take it out of the bag, see how it is unfolded as it will need to be folded the same way when you bring it back.
- Check that all the pegs and guy lines are there.
- Put it up on flat ground removing any stones or sharp objects.
- Never cook in the tent, it's made of nylon and highly flammable!
- Be careful with the poles, they are designed to bend but only in a smooth curve!
- Make sure it is dry before you bring it back, hang it over the washing line to dry it, it won't take long. Wet tents rot! **DO NOT PUT THE TENT ON A RADIATOR!**
- Empty out all the grass and rubbish before you pack it up and count all the pegs.
- If there is any damage or pegs missing report it on its return.



Waterproofs

- Make sure the waterproof jacket or trousers fit you before you go, not too big or small. Remember you might have more layers when out on expedition.
- The material is breathable and therefore needs to be treated with care.
- If it gets dirty first try sponging it with warm water.
- It can be cleaned in a washing machine following these instructions.
First run a rinse cycle with nothing in to remove any detergents from the washing machine. Then put in the waterproof and wash on a COOL rinse cycle again with no detergent. DO NOT USE DETERGENTS to clean them as this damages the fabric. Liquid soap, Soap Flakes, or specialist washing products such as Nikwax must be used.
- Dry naturally on a washing line, NEVER tumble dry waterproofs!
- If there are any tears or problems report them when you return them.



Rucksacks

- It's important that a rucksack fits you well, once you have all your things in it fasten the hip belt over your pelvis, and then adjust the shoulder straps and if needed, adjust the back length straps. A poorly fitting rucksack is uncomfortable and will hurt your back.
- Never put too much in any of the pockets, it will break the zips.
- If it is dirty and dry, brush off the dirt, or you could sponge the rucksack with warm water.



Sleeping bags

- We do not tent to lend Sleeping bags out anymore, however we have a very limited number in our stores.
- If you borrow a sleeping bag you will receive a liner. You must use this liner by getting into the liner and then into your sleeping bag. We will only wash the liner after each expedition and the sleeping bag every couple of months.
- Sleeping bags can be kept in their stuff sacks not compressed without much of a problem.
- When you are putting the sleeping bag into the stuff sack, don't roll it. Start at the foot end and push in a hand full, keep going until it's all inside the stuff sack.
- When you are carrying it in the rucksack you can tighten up the compression straps to make the sleeping bag a little smaller.
- If you are going to wash the sleeping bag follow these instructions.



Wash the sleeping bag in the washing machine, on its own with half the soap powder you'd normally use on a cool wash.

- When you dry it hang it by the foot end or flat and dry naturally, never tumble dry. When it is dry give the bag a good shake all over as the filling will have scrunched up inside and needs to be loosened.

Sleeping mats

- When packing your sleeping mat, consider protecting it as it is easily caught on barbed wire and will absorb water giving you a wet mat to sleep on and a heavier pack to carry.
- If it gets dirty all it needs is a wipe with a damp cloth and then dry off.



Trangia stoves & Fuel Bottle

- The stoves will be loaned clean and they should be returned in the same state, also check all the parts are there.
- The meths flame will make the outsides of the pans black and you will have made the inside dirty so will need a good clean. Simply use a domestic pan scourer and clean in warm soapy water.
- Fuel Bottle must be returned. If you want to keep your fuel you must keep your originally bottle you bought your fuel in to decanter it.

