

RYLA Packing List

Is there a “Dress Code” at RYLA?

Absolutely—and it’s designed to keep you comfortable, safe, and ready for anything RYLA throws your way!

RYLA is an active, outdoor experience, and you will spend a large portion of the weekend outside participating in activities such as team challenges, climbing, and other physical activities. **Come prepared for changing weather and pack with layers in mind.**

Our weather can be unpredictable, and RYLA weekends can be very cold, windy, and rainy. It is much better to have an extra layer you don't need than to wish you had packed one!

Think: base layer + warm layer + waterproof outer layer.

Clothing should be comfortable, appropriate for physical activity, and able to get dirty, wet, and muddy. Choose clothing that allows you to move freely and participate fully.

- **Layering is strongly encouraged.** Bring a combination of short- and long-sleeve shirts, warm layers, and a weatherproof outer layer.
- **For cold weather:** Pack a warm fleece, sweatshirt, sweater, or similar insulating layer and a warm coat/jacket.
- **For rain:** Bring a waterproof rain jacket or poncho. A small umbrella is not a substitute for rain gear during outdoor activities.
- **For active activities:** Athletic or outdoor clothing that allows you to move, climb, bend, and participate comfortably is recommended.
- **Pants:** Bring comfortable long pants/jeans for cool weather and outdoor activities. Nylon pants, shorts, and leggings are not permitted for Sunday activities.
- **Tops:** Shirts should provide appropriate coverage and stay secure during active activities.
- **Footwear:** Bring closed-toe shoes appropriate for physical activity, such as athletic shoes or hiking boots. Shoes should have good traction and be comfortable enough to wear for extended periods.
- Bring an extra pair of shoes if possible, especially in case your primary shoes become wet or muddy.

What should I pack?

Below is a recommended packing list based on feedback from past RYLA staffers and campers.

Remember: You will spend a large amount of time outdoors and may be physically active for much of the weekend. Pack for the weather you *might* get—not just the weather in the forecast when you leave home.

When in doubt, pack an extra layer!

Clothing

- Long-sleeve shirts
- Short-sleeve shirts
- Warm base layers/thermal shirt and pants for especially cold weather
- Sweatshirt, fleece, or other warm mid-layer
- Warm jacket/coat
- Waterproof rain jacket or poncho
- Long pants/jeans
- Comfortable athletic/outdoor pants
- Undergarments
- Plenty of socks — bring extra!
- Pajamas
- Extra complete change of clothes in case you get wet or muddy
- Gloves
- Warm hat/beanie
- Optional: neck gaiter or scarf
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots with good traction
- Extra pair of closed-toe shoes if possible

Important: Avoid packing only one type of clothing. RYLA weather can change quickly, so having multiple layers allows you to adjust throughout the day.

Toiletries

- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Body/shower wipes (*shower time and facilities are limited*)
- Shampoo
- Body wash/soap
- Wash cloth/loofah
- Bath towel
- Deodorant
- Prescription medications
- Personal hygiene products
- Hand sanitizer

Outdoor & Activity Essentials

- Backpack/day pack
- Reusable water bottle
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Sunscreen
- **Lip balm**

- Snacks, such as protein bars, nuts, or jerky (*fruit and candy will be provided*)
- Small plastic/waterproof bags for wet or dirty clothing
- Optional: small towel or microfiber towel for outdoor activities

Bedding

- Sheets and/or sleeping bag appropriate for a twin bed or cot
- Pillow
- Warm blanket (*recommended, especially for cold-weather weekends*)

A Few Important Reminders

Pack for layers. Pack for rain. Pack for activity. Pack for the unexpected.

You may start the morning bundled up and warm up quickly once activities begin. Layers allow you to adjust throughout the day without being too hot or too cold.

Most importantly, don't pack your favorite clothes! Your RYLA clothes should be comfortable, functional, and ready to get dirty, wet, and used for an active weekend.

If you are deciding between bringing something extra or leaving it at home, bring the extra layer!