OKPIK EQUIPMENT

For your winter camping experience, Okpik provides the necessary camping and cooking equipment, food, skis, and snowshoes. Some supplemental clothing and sleeping gear are also supplied. Please be aware that each participant must provide items such as sleeping bags, hats, socks, boots and long underwear.

As you prepare for the weekend, there are several important points to remember about materials and insulation and how to stay warm. Remember:

- Wool is a better insulator than cotton. Even when wet, wool still retains its insulating value. Check surplus and thrift stores as sources for wool items.
- Goose down, a very good insulator, is difficult to use in a field-type setting. Once wet, down is very difficult to dry and loses all of its insulating value. Use down only if you're experienced in how to handle it.
- The preferred insulator for sleeping bags and jackets are synthetic fills, such as Hollofill, Quallofill or Thinsulate, as an example.
- The preferred and popular fiber today for outdoor clothing are the fleeces such as Polarfleece and Polartech. These synthetics are great insulators and are making wool obsolete for winter clothing.

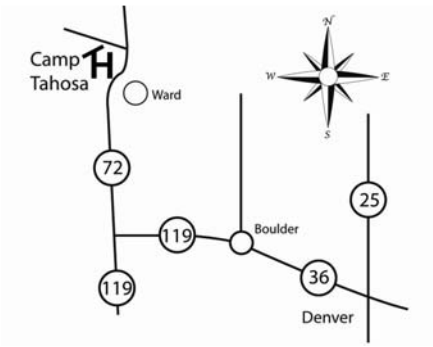
RECOMMENDED EXTRAS

These items are recommended, depending on personal preference and what you have available.

- A vest (insulated or fleece)
- Polypropylene glove liners
- Sock liners
- Personal items: toothbrush, chapstick, extra underwear, etc. (Items you usually take camping).
- Pocket knife.
- Canteen or water bottle
- Candle lantern
- Personal first aid kit
- Travel games, playing cards
- Reading material.

REQUIRED ITEMS
You MUST Bring These Items!

- Sleeping bag, a summer weight or "3-season" bag is adequate; we can provide a supplemental outer bag or fleece liner if you need it.
- Duffel bag or sport bag — pack all your gear in this. No frame packs! (Exception would be on a "no snow" weekend when we have to backpack in).
- Stocking cap - Balaclava style is best.
- 2 - 3 pairs of wool mittens (mittens are warmer than gloves)
- 2 - 3 sweaters and/or shirts (wool or fleece are best)
- Winter coat, preferably hooded
- 1 - 2 sets of synthetic, wool blend or silk long underwear. Under no circumstances should this layer be cotton
- 1 - 2 pairs of pants, loose fitting wool army surplus pants with suspenders are perfect. Option B would be insulated ski pants. No jeans or cotton!
- 3 pairs of socks minimum (wool and wool blends are best)
- Pack boots with removable felt liners (Sorrels, as a brand name, are an example). No leather hunting boots, please.) Leather will get wet and be cold. We will not accept anyone with leather boots.
- Sunglasses (a must item)
- Ground cloth and pad
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Sun protection

DIRECTIONS

Tahosa is approximately a 2 1/2 hour drive from central Denver. This will vary depending on road conditions. Drive northwest to Boulder, Colorado. Take Canyon Boulevard or Arapahoe Avenue west, the streets eventually merge into CO 119. Continue west into Nederland. In Nederland, turn north on CO 72. You will pass the outshirts of Ward. 4.5 miles beyond Ward, turn off CO 72 west onto a county road to Camp Tahosa. There is a sign for Tahosa on CO 72, it appears quickly so be on the lookout for the sign.