

# Camping Checklist – Know before you go!

National Forests in Alabama



## 1 Know Before You Go! **ONLY YOU**

Check [www.fs.usda.gov/alabama](http://www.fs.usda.gov/alabama) or call your local Forest Service office for camping availability before heading out.

## 2 Have a Solid Plan

- Expect large crowds.
- Check road conditions.
- Have a full tank of gas.
- Does access require 4WD?
- Tell someone your plan.

**First Aid Kit Bag**  
+  
**Whistle**  
+  
**Flashlight**  
+  
**Trail Food**

## 3 Prevent Wildfires

Know what fire restrictions are in place and be prepared with alternative cooking & heat sources, such as a backpack stove or propane burner. *Call the local Forest Service office for information.*

## 4 Cooking Supplies

Ensure you have matches/ lighter/ firestarter for a stove or campfire, cook pots, eating utensils, and trash bags

## 5 Sun Protection

Use sunscreen, wear a hat and sunglasses, and stay hydrated!



## 6 Water

Bring plenty of water (at least one gallon per person/ day), especially in hot or dry regions. Many remote areas will not have fresh water available. Bring chemical treatment or a water purifier for treating water.



## 7 Proper Gear

Make sure you're well equipped with a tent and sleeping bag, sturdy shoes, rain and cold weather gear, and extra clothes. Bring along a well-stocked first aid kit, just in case.



## 8 Trail Food

Bring plenty of food, such as granola bars, trail mix, or other compact, nutri-tious food. Avoid sugary snacks.



## 9 Map & Compass

Bring a hard copy map of the area you're visiting and a compass. Visit <http://bit.ly/fs-maps> or scan the QR code for maps before heading out. Cell phone service may not be available where you're visiting.



## 10 Flashlight or Headlamp

Don't forget extra batteries!



## 11 Pocket Knife

A pocket knife or multitool can help with food preparation, gear repair, first aid, or other emergency needs.



## 12 Bring a Whistle

If you become lost or separated, stay put and use a whistle. Signal by blowing three blasts (a well-known emergency signal).



**Tread lightly and leave no trace!**