

BATS Cave Gear Checklist



Basic Equipment Checklist

- Helmet with chin strap
- Primary helmet-mounted lamp (electric or carbide)
- Backup lights (minimum of 2, preferably helmet-mountable)
- Batteries/carbide to power lights for twice the anticipated trip length
- Cave pack
- Webbing and carabiner
- Knee and elbow pads
- Large, plastic garbage bag
- Container to pack out trash
- Containers to pack out human waste – pee bottle and “cave burrito” packet
- Pocket knife
- Food and water (see Sustenance below)
- Emergency kit (see below)

Emergency Kit

- Whistle
- Space blanket
- Pain medicine
- Tweezers
- Q-tips
- Emergency light source (flashlight, chemical light sticks)
- Gauze/feminine napkin
- First aid tape or Coban wrap
- Candle and matches
- Pencil and paper
- Duct tape
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Tips from Seasoned Cavers

“Never leave the group with only one sketchy headlamp and a cave pack with a zipper track caked with cave mud.” —Tommy Carpenter (BATS member)

“I wish that someone told me not to wear cotton.” —Suz Leach (BATS member)

Clothing

- Boots – recommend climbing/hiking or work boots with sturdy and grippy soles; some people prefer rubber rain boots because they are easier to clean
- Wool socks – Recommend merino wool for comfort
- Thermal undergarments
- Cave suit/coveralls OR long pants and long-sleeved shirt
- Gloves
- Belt

Sustenance

- Drinking water in unbreakable container
- Fruit, fresh or dried
- Energy bars
- Dried meats
- Candy
- Trail mix (best packed in a bottle that you can “drink”)

Group Equipment Checklist

- Flagging tape or reflective markers
- First-aid kit
- Cave map
- Compass
- Waterproof timepiece
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