Berkshire Outdoor Center operates year-round, outdoors! We want you to be comfortable and safe during your stay. Please be prepared. Preparedness is key and will drastically affect your experience.

**YOU MUST BE PREPARED**

- **Be Warm** – The Berkshires are often 10-15 degrees cooler than surrounding areas of New England and New York
- Rustic cabins have no electricity – only the lodges and the main buildings do
- Berkshire Outdoor Center does not provide first aid supplies beyond band-aids
- Berkshire Outdoor Center does not provide bedding, unless pre-ordered by your group leader
- Don’t bring your best clothing. Your clothes will get dirty, particularly in March, April and May
- Please do not bring anything of significant value to camp. Don’t bring money, phones, sports equipment, electronics, pets, games or jewelry. Weapons, drugs and alcohol are not permitted at BCCYMCA. BCCYMCA is not responsible for any valuables.

**COMPULSORY PACKING – ALL SEASONS**

- **Warm Bedding/Linens**
  Our cabins are not heated, only our winterized lodges are. It can be very cold at night.
- **Flashlight**
  It’s very dark here at night.
- **Rain Gear**
  The weather changes a lot and rain can come in quickly.
- **Warm Clothes**
  It is colder here than elsewhere in New England and New York. Sometimes it is very cold at night. The key to dressing sensibly is wearing multiple layers – you can always take off or add on, depending on the weather.
- **Water Bottle**
  Dehydration can be a terrible thing.

**SPRING & FALL**

- Warm bedding or sleeping bag (overnights)
- Pillow (overnights)
- Toiletries (overnights)
- Rain gear
- Flashlight (overnights)
- Water bottle
- Sweater/Fleece
- Windbreaker
- Winter hat
- Shorts
- Long pants
- Socks/Underwear (overnights)
- Outdoor footwear – sneakers or boots
- Tee shirts
- Long sleeved shirt
- Swimsuit
- Day pack
- Towel
- Insect repellant
- Sunscreen

**WINTER**

- Warm bedding or sleeping bag (overnights)
- Pillow (overnights)
- Toiletries (overnights)
- Rain gear
- Flashlight (overnights)
- Water bottle
- Sweater/Fleece
- Winter jacket
- Winter hat
- Snow pants (for winter sports activities)
- Long pants
- Socks/Underwear (overnights)
- Winter footwear – insulated boots
- Tee shirts
- Long sleeved shirt
- Gloves (or mittens)
- Day pack
- Towel
- Sunscreen

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

By Massachusetts law, all parents of guests aged under 18 must be informed that:

- Guests who wish to swim in deeper water must undergo a Swim Assessment and this assessment is performed in a closely-supervised environment, but without a PFD.
- Any guest is permitted to use a properly fitted PFD brought from home, provided that it is:
  - Coast Guard approved
  - Free of mold, rips or tears
  - Approved for use by the BOC Waterfront Supervisor or designated lifeguard
- PFDs provided from home will be required to be worn by Red Tag Swimmers (or the swimmer will be excluded) aged under 18.
- All other Red Tag Swimmers aged under 18 will have a PFD fitted for them and this PFD will be available (although not required) for use while swimming.
- All boaters, regardless of ability, will be required to wear a properly fitted PFD at all times.