

APOGEE ADVENTURES

2026 Vermont to Montréal

Packing List

Please find the packing list for our *Vermont to Montréal* (VM) trip below. As always, be in touch with any questions about the items on this list, where to find them, or packing questions.

Please review our [Gear Recommendations](#) blog post with our more specific recommendations for many of the items on the packing list.

Vermont to Montréal participants will have the option of either renting a bicycle and panniers or bringing their own. Delineated below are both the rental package and the equipment requirements if you elect to bring your own bike and/or panniers. You will complete a form in your [family portal](#) where you will make your bike/pannier rental election (this form will be available in mid-February).

Optional Bike Rental Package – \$275 (Does not include panniers, please see below)

- Bike (sized and tuned)
- Installed rear bicycle rack
- 1 Water bottle cage
- 1 Spare tube
- 1 Combination bike cable lock

Optional Pannier (Saddlebag) Rental – \$60 (Can be rented without the bike package)

Bicycle and Pannier Requirements (if not selecting the rental package)

Students bringing their own bicycles must have them professionally tuned before trip start

- ☐ Well-maintained mountain, hybrid, or touring bicycle (*mountain bikes should have ‘slicks’ or road tires for mountain bikes*)
 - *Front and back wheels must each have at least 32 spokes.*
 - *Make sure the rear wheel has been properly “trued” by a bicycle mechanic before the trip start and is strong enough to support a rider and added weight.*
- ☐ Installed rear bicycle rack that connects to the frame at four points with strong vertical stays (not a rack attached to the seat)
- ☐ 1 Spare tube that matches your tire size
- ☐ 1 Combination bike cable lock
- ☐ 1-2 Water bottle cages
- ☐ 1 Pair of rear panniers (*40-45 liters / 2400-2800 cubic inches combined*)

If you have questions about the suitability of your child’s bicycle for Vermont to Montréal, please reach out to Kevin at kevin@apogeeadventures.com.

- Note that you are responsible for any repair costs associated with your child’s bicycle while they are on trip.

Apogee Adventures, PO Box 505, Brunswick, ME 04011

207.725.7025 or info@apogeeadventures.com

Cycling Essentials (Regardless of Equipment Rental Election)

- ❑ 1 Bicycle helmet (*please read our [blog entry on helmets](#)*)
- ❑ 1 Reflective triangle to wear while riding (*to be attached to the back of a riding shirt or hydration pack – must be ~6" tall*)
- ❑ 1 Rear tail light (*to be attached to the back of the helmet – Apogee staff will help attach the tail light at the trip start*)
- ❑ 4 Bungee cords between two and three feet in length

Optional

- ❑ Handlebar bag (*for easy access to sun block, camera, snacks etc.*)
- ❑ Cycling gloves (*highly recommended*)

Clothing Essentials

- ❑ 4-5 Pairs of underwear, 3-4 sports bras (*as necessary*)
- ❑ 4-5 Pairs of socks (*synthetic recommended*)
- ❑ 3 Riding shirts (*these should be synthetic, high-visibility t-shirts or high-visibility bicycle jerseys*)
- ❑ 2 T-shirts for wearing around camp (*can be synthetic or cotton*)
- ❑ 1 Long-sleeved synthetic shirt
- ❑ 2-3 Pairs of padded cycling shorts
- ❑ 2-3 Pairs of synthetic shorts (*not heavy cotton cargo or jean shorts*)
- ❑ 1 Pair of leggings or lightweight, synthetic pants
- ❑ 1 Wool or synthetic long underwear top (*medium weight, long sleeve*)
- ❑ 1 Wool or synthetic long underwear bottom
- ❑ 1 Medium weight fleece or synthetic fill, packable, insulating jacket
- ❑ 1 Waterproof shell jacket with hood (*should be made of coated nylon, Gore-Tex, H2NO, or some other wind and waterproof material*) – Note that **water resistant** is not **waterproof**; water resistant is insufficient.
- ❑ 1 Quick-drying swimsuit
- ❑ 1 Pair of shoes for cycling (*running, all-terrain, or tennis shoes*)
- ❑ 1 Pair of sport sandals with heel strap for off-bike activities and around camp (*flip-flops are not adequate*)
- ❑ 1 Winter hat, wool or synthetic
- ❑ 1 Baseball cap or sun hat

Optional

- ❑ 1 Pair of pajamas (*a cotton t-shirt and boxer shorts work well*)
- ❑ 1 Pair of full-fingered fleece/synthetic gloves
- ❑ 1 Pair of waterproof rain pants

Camping Essentials

- ❑ 1 Synthetic, medium weight sleeping bag (*20 or 30° temperature rating - it should be compressible and weigh no more than 3.5 pounds*)
- ❑ 1 Waterproof compression/stuff sack for sleeping bag (*if sleeping bag comes in a non-waterproof compression stuff sack, a garbage bag can be used to line the stuff sack for waterproofing*)
- ❑ 1 Inflatable or closed-cell foam sleeping pad (*closed-cell foam pad should be no larger than 1 ½" x 30" x 72" when unrolled*)
- ❑ 1 Tupperware/Rubbermaid/plastic bowl (6" to 8") with lid and cutlery (*will serve as a plate and bowl*)
- ❑ 1-2 One-liter plastic, non-metal water bottles (*two if not bringing a water hydration pack*)
- ❑ 1 Bicycle water bottle (21-25 oz.; *can be purchased at any bicycle shop*)
- ❑ 1 Headlamp with two sets of extra batteries
- ❑ 10 Re-sealable plastic freezer bags (*two-gallon size for keeping clothing or other items organized and dry*)

Optional

- ❑ One 2- to 3-liter water hydration pack (*keep it simple and stay away from packs with lots of pockets. The pack's primary function is to hold water, not carry gear.*)
- ❑ Camping pillow (*inflatable or very compact – a sleeping bag stuff sack filled with clothes works, too*)

Personal Essentials

- ❑ **Valid Identification for crossing US/Canadian Border** (*if your child is not a US or Canadian citizen, please contact Apogee to consult on what documentation will be necessary for border crossing*)
 - ❑ Passport or passport card OR
 - ❑ Copy of birth certificate AND Photo ID (*school ID works well*)
- ❑ Travel-size bottle of hand sanitizer
- ❑ Personal toiletry items (*toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, brush/comb, etc. – pack shampoos & conditioners in small travel-size bottles. The toiletry bottles can be replenished during the trip*)
- ❑ Medium-sized quick-drying camp towel
- ❑ Lip balm (*with sun protection*)
- ❑ Sunglasses with leash
- ❑ Extra pair of glasses/contacts (*if applicable*)

Optional

- ❑ Sunscreen & insect repellent (*leaders will have sunscreen and bug spray for the group, but students are welcome to bring a small, personal bottle if they would prefer*)

Others Essentials

- ❑ Spending money for souvenirs, laundry, and showers (*we recommend no more than \$100 for the trip – trip leaders will designate appropriate times to use personal spending money. Please bring \$10 of the money in quarters or small bills for showers and laundry*)

Optional

- ❑ Disposable or digital camera with charger (*please do not plan to use a cell phone as a camera*)
- ❑ Journal and pencil/pen
- ❑ Book for reading (*paperback recommended*)

Just as important as what your child packs, we also want to specifically address items your child *should not* bring with them to their Apogee experience. **Please do not pack the following:**

- ❑ **Smart watches, Kindles, video games, or other electronic devices.** A cell phone is permitted for students traveling to the trip start by airplane, bus, or train but must be handed over to leaders upon arrival. If a student brings a cell phone or other electronic device, Apogee is not responsible for its damage or loss under any circumstances. *Please see our “Electronics and Personal Property Policy” document (available through your [family portal](#) in February) for more information.*
- ❑ **Bulky cotton items like sweatpants or denim clothing such as jeans.** They are heavy, take a long time to dry when wet, and can be dangerous in cold weather. Synthetic clothing is much more practical. In cold, wet conditions it will keep you dry and warm.
- ❑ **Knives or multi-tools of any kind.**
- ❑ **More than is suggested on the packing list.** Through years of experience, we feel confident that we recommend sufficient gear and clothing while minimizing unnecessary items.

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Packing Instructions

Packing Instructions:

1. Please label everything with your child's name
2. Please pack your child's belongings into a large, soft-sided duffel (please do not use a hard-bottom, rolling duffel). At the trip start, our leaders will help your child transfer their gear into their panniers (Apogee will supply any rental panniers at this time), and the duffel will be returned at the end of the trip. If you are curious about what the bike-packing process looks like at the trip start, check out our [bike-packing video](#).
3. All of our bike trips are self-supported, which means that students and their leaders will carry all of their personal items, along with Apogee-issued group gear (such as cooking gear and tents) on their bikes. For this reason, please stick to the equipment list and do not overpack. Again, leaders will thoroughly explain how to properly pack panniers at the start of the trip.
4. **If your child is flying:**
 - Please pack a drawstring bag or sturdy plastic bag with their bike helmet, a change of clothes, any important medication, and a water bottle. This bag will act as their primary carry-on item on the plane.
 - Students should carry-on their sleeping bag (as a personal item). We ask this so that your child has something to sleep in if their duffel bag does not arrive on time. *Optional:* If you'd also like to carry on your sleeping pad, you can tape your sleeping pad and bag together (so that they only count as one carry-on item).
 - Everything else should be in the duffel and the duffel should be checked.