

New Scout Buyer's Guide

Local Camping/Backpacking Outfitters - "Where to get it

Following are most of the true outdoor outlets in our area. If you're planning to buy anything major (i.e., expensive), it makes good sense to bring along a few catalogs for price comparisons. Don't be afraid to ask the staff for advice. At most camping outfitters, the staff is genuinely interested in assisting you.

General Comments: While your son is still growing, do not invest in really expensive gear that they are likely to out-grow (such as hiking boots, backpacks, etc.). It is more important that the gear fits than it be of the highest quality. More than likely, he will outgrow it before he out-wears it. It should simply be durable enough to last until he hits the next growth spurt and comfortable enough that it will not detract from his outdoor experience. Wait until he's stopped growing before you invest in high-quality (and usually more expensive) gear.

For Scout Uniforms, Books and other supplies:

1. **Scoutfitter** - This is the location to buy all items related to the uniform (except Troop t-shirts and hats), hand-books, merit badge pamphlets, etc. Selection of camping gear is very limited, but they can order items from the Scout Catalog for you. The staff are very helpful.

Location: 8605 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, TX Phone: 214-902-6767
Store Hours: M-F: 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

2. **Scout Shop** - Located in the National Scouting Museum, this store has much the same inventory as Scoutfitters with the addition of Scout Museum memorabilia. You might also want to check out the Museum next door.

Location: 1329 W. Walnut Hill Lane., Irving, TX Phone: 972-580-7875
(south of 114 just west of MacArthur Blvd.)
Store Hours: M-T, Th-S: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

For Camping Gear:

1. **R.E.I.** - Types of Gear: Backpacking, Camping, Canoeing, Climbing, Cycling, Hiking
Very wide selection of medium to high-quality gear, including "house-brand" gear. Staff knowledge varies but is generally very good. Pricing on gear is fairly competitive. Pricing on clothing tends to be high. R.E.I. is a cooperative; you can pay an initial \$15 lifetime membership fee with a rebate (credit voucher or cash) on purchases offered at the end of the year of up to 10%. They have several sales during the year and if you put yourself on their mailing list, you'll receive notice of all major sales. They also have an outlet website where you can purchase gear at prices up to 60% off.

Location: 4515 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX Phone: 972-490-5989
(north access road between Welch and Midway Rd.)
Store Hours: M-F: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sat: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sun: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Website: www.REI.com and www.REI-OUTLET.com

2. **Mountain Hideout** - Types of Gear: Backpacking, Camping, Climbing, Hiking
Not as large as R.E.I. but with fairly knowledgeable staff. They also have a clearance section on their website with savings of up to 50%.

Location: 5643 Lovers Lane, Dallas, TX Phone: 214-350-8181
14010 Coit Rd., Dallas, TX Phone: 972-234-8651
Store Hours: M-W: 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. *(open until 8 p.m. during Summer)*
Th: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
F-S: 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Sun: 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Website: www.mountainhideout.com

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- 3. Academy** - Types of Gear: Camping, Cycling, Hiking, Fishing, Water Sports (and other sporting activities)
Not solely devoted to camping, but you can generally find good prices on most gear, including gear for fishing. Staff generally doesn't have the knowledge of R.E.I. or Mountain Hideout. Pricing is very competitive, often less than other specialty stores.

Location: 8050 Forest Ln., Dallas, TX Phone: 214-221-2284
(*Forest Lane @ Central Expressway—Next to Home Depot*)
3305 Dallas Pkwy, Suite 301, Plano, TX Phone: 972-781-2970
4045 Central Expressway, Plano, TX Phone: 972-516-7020

Store Hours: M-S: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sun: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Website: www.academy-sports.com

- 4. Bass Pro** - Types of Gear: Camping, Canoeing, Fishing, Hiking
Predominantly a fishing and water sports type of store, they do have gear for other sports as well.

Location: 2501 Bass Pro Drive, Grapevine, TX Phone: 972-724-2018

Store Hours: M-S: 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sun: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Website: www.basspro.com

- 5. Galyan's** - Types of Gear: Backpacking, Camping, Canoeing, Cycling, Fishing, Hiking
Wide selection of gear (although emphasis is toward sports, fishing and hunting) with good pricing. Staff is not as knowledgeable as outfitters such as R.E.I. and such.

Location: 2611 Preston Rd., Frisco, TX Phone: 972-618-0200

Store Hours: M-S: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sun: 12 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Website: www.galyans.com

Last, but not least. . .

Most of the large department store chains (Target, Wal-Mart, Sears) have small to moderate-sized camping departments. Selections, prices and quality will vary, but you can find some basics there for a reasonable price.

Another good source is the internet. In addition to those listed above, Campmor.com is great and usually has sales and specials. If you have the time to search and wait on shipment, this can be a very cost-effective way to outfit a new Scout.
