

THE A-B-C's OF BUYING A BACKPACK

As a boy joins us, he'll need a comfortable but roomy backpack. Here are some guidelines for the purchase of this vital piece of Scout camping equipment.

The most cost effective backpack for a younger boy is the external frame pack - known for its tubular aluminum frame to which a pack is attached. Real value rather than the cheapest price is the best purchasing criteria. For quality brands such as Camp Trails, Jansport, Kelty, and the Boy Scouts own brand, pricing falls between \$65.00 and \$120.00.

<u>Welded Frame Models</u>	<u>Bolted Frame Models</u>
Most common-check welds for quality	Often more durable pack frame
Frame is not adjustable	Frame can be manually adjusted
Fit is adjusted using straps	Fit is adjusted using straps and frame
Often less expensive	Special wrench is needed for frame

As a boy gets older and is closer to adult stature, some prefer an internal frame pack as more comfortable. All belongings must fit inside this type of pack, including the sleeping bag. Buy this type of pack large, and make sure that it comes with some attachable/removable smaller storage bags like a fanny pack, or even a small day pack. Buy a name brand like those listed above and be prepared to pay \$120.00 or more for a good quality internal frame pack.

A good quality pack is made of a coated tough nylon cloth. Check for . . .

Volume rating of at least 3000 cubic inches

Pack either bolted or pinned to the frame

Several large zippered external pockets

Straps usually come with a backpack set. Look for . . .

Padded and adjustable shoulder straps

Padded hip strap which fits your son and snaps together

Compression straps on front-opening models

Expect a quality pack and frame to last seven years or more.