

THE A-B-C's OF BUYING A SLEEPING BAG

Somewhere in his Scouting experience, a boy will need a new sleeping bag. Here are some guidelines for the purchase of this vital piece of Scout camping equipment.

A sleeping bag is a nylon bag within a bag. The sandwiching material may be a man-made fiber such as "**Hollofil**" or "**Quallofil**" or one of several newer brand names, or a natural material such as **goose down**. Although down is lighter and warmer when dry, it loses much of its insulating properties when it gets wet, and it often rains at Scout camp!

The most cost effective sleeping bag is not the most expensive. A Scout needs a sleeping bag which combines light weight, compressibility, and warmth (wet or dry). ***The best value is a mummy shape bag filled with a man-made fiber.*** For quality brands such as Coleman, Slumberjack or the Boy Scouts own brands, pricing falls between \$70.00 and \$120.00.

Mummy Shaped Models	Rectangular Shaped Models
More warmth with less volume	Roomier bag for tossing/turning
Compresses to smaller package	Fits a larger boy more comfortably

A good quality sleeping bag has a nylon (preferably rip-stop) outer shell and a nylon inner liner. Rule of thumb: Stay away from bags with pictures on the inside. Check for:

- Nylon Stuffbag as a no-cost option
 - Quality man-made fiber
 - Nylon inner and outer shells
 - "Three season" warmth rating

Expect today's quality sleeping bags to last ten years or more with proper care.

THE SLEEPING BAG STUFF SACK

Regarding stuff sacks for our kid's sleeping bags. . . We highly recommend this inexpensive item. The protection a stuff sack offers a quality sleeping bag is considerable, and the improvements in packing ease is quite a help on a cold camp morning. A stuff sack should be water resistant nylon and not any larger than is needed to snugly 'stuff' the sleeping bag. Buy one at K-Mart, Whitey's Army Navy, or any camping store.