



Clothing and Equipment List

At Chewonki, you have an opportunity to simplify your life. One way to achieve this is to limit the “stuff” that you bring and use daily; remember that you will be living in a one-room cabin with 5-7 of your peers. Most of your attire can be informal and should enable you to live, learn, and work comfortably in both built environments and the outdoors. As you pack, keep in mind seasonal changes. Students in both semesters will experience temperatures and conditions that range from summer (70° - 90° F ±) to winter (0° - 25° F ±).

Put your name on all your clothes and equipment and bring all of the required items with you at the time of your arrival. We do not take students off campus to purchase additional clothing or equipment. Although students may receive packages at Maine Coast Semester, we strongly encourage families to plan ahead and avoid ordering additional clothing or equipment after the beginning of the semester. We ask students to limit online shopping during the semester, both to uphold our mission of being a sustainable community and our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement that establishes Chewonki’s commitment to promoting equity.

You will do your own laundry on campus one day each week; knowing and planning for this ahead of time may help in packing. Chewonki provides detergent, and there is no fee to use the laundry facilities.

Clothing Expectations

Though we do not have a formal dress code, we ask that clothing be presentable and respectful of others while in classes and representing Maine Coast Semester. Our 400-acre campus features a farm, forest and woodlot, meadows, marsh, rocky coastline, and several miles of hiking trails. Students spend a great deal of time outdoors in all weather conditions, including rain and snow. Pack accordingly. Jeans or the equivalent are appropriate for most daily activities. Work program also necessitates that you bring clothes and gloves that are durable and can get *very* dirty. A headlamp is a must-have for moving around campus in the early mornings and evenings. Please also bring one nice (or semi-formal) outfit for special events.

Storage

Students live in one-room cabins with 5-7 other peers. For storage of all clothing, school supplies, and gear, each student has two medium-sized bookcases (waist height) with four-to-six shelves, as well as space under the bed. Some students bring a trunk or containers to keep underneath or at the foot of their bed. Most beds have 17” of clearance underneath for storage; some have 13”. A labeled mesh bag for laundry is also useful.

Required Outerwear

- Warm winter parka (lightweight down or synthetic-fill “super layer”)
- Waterproof rain jacket
- Waterproof rain pants (and a warm thermal or fleece layer for underneath in spring semester)

- Work pants – jeans, cotton duck, or canvas (many students choose to bring heavy overalls)
- Insulated and water-resistant snow pants (required for spring semester)
- Warm fleece or wool gloves that are flexible enough to wear when writing
- Warm shell mittens that fit over gloves (and/or heavyweight ski gloves)
- Lined leather or canvas work gloves
- Hat with a brim
- 2 wool or synthetic ski hats (of two weights or warmths)
- Balaclava, buff, or warm scarf
- Sunglasses (Additionally, ski goggles are optional for winter trips)
- Bandana(s)

Required Clothing

- Two weeks' worth of everyday clothing and underwear (*note: students do laundry one day each week.*)
- Several pairs of warm, wool socks (in addition to everyday socks)
- Two warm wool sweaters or fleece jackets that can be layered over shirts and t-shirts
- Two sets of long underwear (non-cotton), top and bottom
- Long-sleeved work shirts (flannel, wool, or denim)
- Swimsuit
- One "semi-formal" outfit for special events (*and note that thrifting is encouraged*)
- Optional – costumes or the like for weekend evening activities (i.e. skits, coffeehouses, theme dances)

Required Footwear

Although there are boardwalks near the center of campus and some gravel pathways, students should expect to encounter wet, muddy, snowy, and cold ground conditions on a regular basis. Classes frequently meet on our farm, hiking trails, and coastline. During science field lab, students typically visit rocky and sandy beaches, bogs, brooks, and marshes. Students will be outside in all weather conditions, including the snow and rain.

- Everyday shoes, sneakers, running shoes, sandals, crocs, etc.
- Sturdy hiking boots for rugged terrain and variable weather conditions (water-resistance helps)
- Rubber boots such as rain boots or insulated bog boots
- Water shoes or old sneakers you don't mind getting exceptionally wet or dirty for polar bear dips and other water/mudflat activities (must stay attached to feet; crocs and backless sandals aren't enough)
- Insulated winter boots (ideally, with removable felt lining)
- Slippers or slipper socks for wearing inside your cabin
- (Some may bring slides to wear to/in the shower, though shower floors are clean and this is optional)

Required Cabin and Outdoor Items

- Headlamp and additional batteries (or charging cord if it's rechargeable)
- Warm bedding and linens – twin-sized sheets, blankets, pillow (light cotton mattress pad optional)
- Towels for showering (a large towel is a good idea if you are inclined to do polar bear dips)
- Two water bottles (approximately 32 oz. each)
- Battery-powered alarm clock AND Wrist-watch (not Wi-Fi enabled)
- Toiletries to last four months (natural/biodegradable preferred) and shower caddy
- Sunscreen and chapstick
- Bug-spray
- Optional – A small mat (~2'x3' or smaller) for wiping feet before getting into bed

Required School Supplies

Note: we do not have a school store on campus.

- School or government-issued photo I.D.
- Pens, pencils, and highlighters
- An assortment of supplies for taking notes and organizing course materials for 5 classes plus Capstone: a combination of 3-ring binders, folders, spiral notebooks, composition books, and looseleaf paper
- Graphing calculator
- Durable book backpack; You may also bring a hiking daypack for science field labs and day hikes

Additional Items Required for Spring Students

- Notes from the fall semester classes you will be continuing at Maine Coast Semester, e.g. language, history, and math (these will be useful to look over as you learn new material and prepare for any Advanced Placement® exams you may be taking)

Outdoor Skills Gear

Chewonki provides the following outdoor gear (so you do not need to bring the following):

- Personal shelter (tarps, rope, hammocks, mosquito netting for hammocks)
- Backpacking backpack and/or dry bag
- Sleeping pad
- Cross country skis, boots, and poles; snowshoes; paddles; PFDs
- Sleeping bag*

*A note on sleeping bags: *If you have your own favorite sleeping bag, it is helpful to bring to simplify gear washing and may also serve as added comfort and warmth in cabins. Here are the specs: cold-weather sleeping bag, rated to 15 or 20° F for fall or 0 or 5° F for spring, that stuffs into a **small** sack. If you are a “cold sleeper,” you may want a synthetic fleece sleeping bag liner.*

Optional Other Items *This is not a shopping list but offers context for types of things to bring.*

Recreational Gear: We have these items on hand to use, however, you may choose to bring your own.

- Binoculars
- Digital camera (you may want your own for personal use; we supply them for backcountry trips)
- Art supplies (art materials will also be provided by Maine Coast Semester)

Welcome things to bring, if you feel so inclined:

- Musical instruments (any and all encouraged if you’re a musician or an aspiring musician!)
- Crafting materials, such as embroidery, knitting, crocheting, etc.
- Recreational and sports equipment (tennis racket, lacrosse stick, xc skis, ice skates, hockey stick, etc.)
- Books for pleasure reading or games (*note: we do not support offensive or derogatory games, e.g., “Cards Against Humanity”.* We are eager to engage in conversation with you about being an inclusive community and why this popular game does not align with our ethos.)

A specific note on Cell Phones:

- In keeping with our philosophy of valuing in-person connection, we do not allow student cell phone use on campus. This offers a refuge in today’s world. Please note that while there is no need to bring a cell phone, a phone is useful for traveling home, so many students bring phones. Student phones are collected on Day One and securely stored out of access throughout Semester.

Please Do **NOT** Bring or Acquire While Enrolled in Maine Coast Semester

- Alcohol, tobacco products, vaping products, cannabis, or any illegal drugs. (They are major violations.)
- Personal Wi-Fi enabled devices (like laptops, iPads, iPods, Apple watches, tablets, Kindles) or devices with screens with stored movies or video games. Non-wifi enabled Kindles and music players are allowed.
- Large stereos
 *A note on music: Students can stream music through chromebooks during the day, but not in cabins. In cabins, personal, non-internet-capable music-listening devices like mp3 players with stored music are allowed. Each cabin will have access to a radio for local stations.
- Hot pots, appliances, or electric blankets
- Tapestries or other cloth wall hangings are not allowed as they are a fire hazard. Posters and photos are ok.
- Firearms
- Pets
- Candles or incense
- No area rugs larger than 2'x3' (small mats to wipe feet before getting into bed are OK)

Sourcing Items

Clothing, equipment, and footwear that students bring to campus will be well used, so we recommend durable items that can stand up to Maine’s rugged landscape and variable weather. There’s a saying in Scandinavia that there is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing. As our program is focused outdoors – sometimes in inclement weather – it is essential that clothing and gear keep people warm and dry. At the same time, we recognize that the brand recognition of high quality outdoor clothing can feel like a social dress code, which may feel exclusive. Our recommendations for gear attempt to balance time-tested quality and function, company values and environmental philosophy, and cost. It’s an on-going dialogue that we invite our participants to join. Several quality brands now offer gently used and repaired items on their websites. *Buying used is both an environmentally friendly and pragmatic approach to outfitting yourself for the semester.*

Used gear can be found at local thrift shops and online at:

- [Patagonia Worn Wear](#)
- [REI Co-op Used Gear](#)
- [The North Face Renewed](#)
- [Outdoors Geek](#)

Still Have Questions?

Packing for a four-month semester in an unfamiliar climate can be challenging, so if you feel unsure of what to pack please don’t hesitate to call the admissions office at (207) 656-5885. We also maintain a robust [Flickr](#) account with photos of daily life, work program, farm chores, science field lab, and other activities. Some families find these images helpful when deciding what to pack.

Climate Data for Wiscasset, Maine

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high in °F:	29	33	40	51	62	71	76	76	68	57	46	36
Average low in °F:	11	14	23	33	43	52	58	57	50	39	31	20
Average precipitation:	4.05"	3.61"	5.02"	4.50"	3.91"	4.01"	3.66"	3.29"	3.99"	4.68"	4.95"	4.51"

Source: U.S. Climate Data