

# New Gear rental and usage policies

Students and RSOs associated with the University of Chicago can rent gear from the OAC for camping trips. We will try to accommodate people as best we can.

Gear we have available includes: tents, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, stoves, basic backpacks and other gear needed for camping trips.

- Our gear rental/return times are by appointment only.
  - When you want to borrow gear, please send an email to [oac@uchicago.edu](mailto:oac@uchicago.edu) or one of the gear managers:  
Mike B, [mbaumer\(a\)uchicago.edu](mailto:mbaumer(a)uchicago.edu)
  - Please give us **as much notice as possible**. We require at least one week, and longer if you'll be borrowing a lot of gear or using it for a long time.
  - Please be on time to pick up the gear. If you are late and the officer meeting you has left, we cannot guarantee another time to meet you before your trip.
  - Please don't take any equipment you are not capable of safely operating. The club does not assume any responsibility for any failure on your part to learn to properly use the equipment or to check gear before using it.
  - **Deposits:** All gear rentals require a deposit. The deposit will be returned in full upon the return of the gear.
  - Please **return the gear promptly** after you use it so that others can enjoy it!
  - **Late Fees:** At the time of gear-checkout you will be required to give a return date for the gear. Gear that is more than a week overdue will incur late fees in the amount of **\$5/week**. If you do not show up to return gear or if you are late and the officer has already left, late fees will be deducted from the deposit automatically.
  - **Condition of gear:**
    - Please inspect the gear within 24 hours of receiving it and email the officers if there is a problem.
    - All items must be returned in the proper bags that they came in so that the next person using them will get the right gear.
    - **Sleeping bags must be washed** ([Washing instructions](#)) prior to their return.
    - If gear becomes damaged on a trip, please inform the officers right away to avoid a penalty.
    - We can reimburse you for repairing an item that breaks due to normal wear and tear, but ask for our permission first.
    - There will be spot-check inspections of the gear upon return. The following may lead to you forfeiting your deposit and/or repairing or replacing the item in question
      - If gear is damaged (and you *didn't* tell us about it)
      - If gear is returned in the wrong bag
      - If sleeping bags are not washed
      - If gear is missing
  - By signing the gear out, you agree to these policies.
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- For more information, see our [rental form](#)

# Rental prices

## Group Rental Rates

<10 people	\$50 fee	\$150 deposit
10-14 people	\$75 fee	\$200 deposit
15-19 people	\$100 fee	\$250 deposit
20+ people	\$125 fee	\$300 deposit

## Member Rentals

Club members can borrow gear **with no fee** with a **\$20 deposit**, which will be returned with the return of the gear. Visit our [membership page](#) for information on becoming a member.

## Washing

(taken from [Sierra Designs](#) website)

All bags should be washed in top-loading machines. They are available in commercial laundromats, such as the one on Harper Ave north of 53rd.

### Synthetic Bags

Machine wash, gentle cycle, in cool water with a mild soap, in a large front loading washer. **Never use a top-loading machine to wash your sleeping bag**, as significant damage can occur to the shell and the insulation. Do not use bleach or fabric softener. Tumble dry on a low heat setting. Note that heat levels in dryers are not always consistent. Check your bag frequently during drying to make sure that no "hot spots" are developing which might melt the shell or insulation. Heat should never exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit. If in doubt, air-dry your bag, or use a no-heat setting in the dryer.

### Down Bags

Use a mild soap (there are soaps available designed especially for cleaning down products) and a large tub or a large, commercial front loading washer. **Never use a top-loading machine**, as the sleeping bag shell may be damaged. Machine wash on the gentle cycle in cool water. Rinse, making absolutely certain that all of the soap is removed from the feathers by rinsing multiple times in clean water. When you are sure that all of the soap residue has been removed, drip dry or tumble dry at a low heat setting. It may take several hours to completely dry your bag. Do not attempt to speed the process by drying at a higher heat level. Nylon sleeping bag shells will melt if exposed to high heat in a dryer. Check your bag frequently throughout the drying process. **The addition of a couple of tennis balls will help to break up any clumps of down, and make sure your bag regains its maximum loft.** Never steam, press or iron a down sleeping bag.

## **How to Become a Member**

Step 1: Fill out our membership form: available in [PDF](#), [Postscript](#) and [Word](#).

Step 2: Turn in your form and dues (\$10/person/year) to one of the officers.

## **How to Sign Up for Our Email List**

To receive email about club trips, news, etc., go to [Mailing List](#) and follow the directions. You do not need to be a member to receive club email.

## **Benefits of Membership**

Club membership allows you to borrow [gear](#) and to participate in club trips/events that require gear. It also gives you priority on club trips that don't require gear (e.g. hiking trips). You also get a discount on our [club nalgenes](#).