Gear Rental and Usage Policies

Students and RSO’s 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. For a list of gear and the corresponding deposit please visit [this link](#). Email a gear manager to check availability.

### Rental Procedure

Our gear rental/return times are by appointment only. When you want to borrow gear, please send an email to the gear managers:

- **Alexander Okamoto:** aokamoto@uchicago.edu
- **Daniel Heins:** heinsd@uchicago.edu

Please give us as much notice as possible. We require at least four days, 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.
- Please return the gear promptly after you use it so that others can enjoy it!

### Condition of Gear:

- Please inspect the gear within 24 hours of receiving it and email the officers if there is a problem. You will be charged for any damages not reported within 24 hours of when you receive the gear.
- If gear becomes damaged on a trip, please inform the officers as soon as possible to avoid any 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.
- 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 should be washed (washing instructions) prior to their return.
Fee Structure:
The Outdoor Adventure Club assesses fees to cover part of the cost of maintaining and offering gear. Payment procedure consists of a separate rental security deposit and rental usage fee in check. We require the security deposit when you pick up our gear, which is a total of the different costs associated with each item you rent. (See the inventory sheet for deposit amounts). When you return our gear, we’ll give you back the deposit minus the usage fee. For Non-Members, the usage fee will be 20% of the security deposit.

For Members who have attended an OAC trip or have completed a gear orientation (appointment by e-mail) with one of our gear managers, the usage fee is a flat rate dependent upon the total value of gear you are renting out. Note OAC membership fees are $10 annually.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Rental Fees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Security Deposit Amount</td>
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<tr>
<td>$0-50</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50-100</td>
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<td>$100-200</td>
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Penalties:
The Outdoor Adventure Club reserves the right to deduct a portion of the deposit under the following conditions:

- **Late Return:** 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 $10/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.
- **Wrong Bag:** If gear is returned in the wrong bag: $3 per bag.
- **Unwashed Sleeping Bags:** If sleeping bags are not washed (see next page for washing instructions): $5 per bag.
- **Damage:** If gear is damaged (and you didn't tell us about it), depending on the severity of damage, deposit might be forfeited. You will be asked to pay for replacement if damage is irreparable.
- **Missing:** You will be asked to pay the cost of replacement.
Special Rates:
The Outdoor Adventure Club encourages members and non-members to introduce people to the beauty of our natural environment. As such, certain educational or conservation trips (astronomy, wilderness preservation, tree planting, etc...) sponsored by RSOs or professors will be asked to pay deposits only without a usage fee. (Please email the President and Gear Manager for more information.)
Washing Sleeping Bags
(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.