

A Christmas Wish List for your Boy Scout

It's that time of the year when relatives are wondering what to get your child for a Christmas, Hanukkah, Yule, Kwanza, Solstice, etc. gift. So we've prepared a list of thoughtful gifts that you might suggest to well wishers for your budding scout!

A new dark green windbreaker jacket or one of the new dark green embroidered scout baseball cap hats as the older red style jackets and hats are being phased out.

Do your boys need a new pair of hiking boots or winter warm boots for snow camping?

Speaking of snow camping, how are they set for the winter campouts? Maybe some Hotties Hand Warmers for those cold nights out as stocking stuffers. Do they need a new pair of gloves, long johns or the ever popular and warm Under Armor?

Another quick stocking stuffer is a couple of pairs of new warm wool socks to keep their feet warm and dry.

Other ideas include a titanium sporks, silicon mess kit that can be heated to extreme temperatures without failing and then rolled up and stuffed into a back pack. Perhaps your scout needs some enlightenment. For that perhaps a head lamp so that they have their hands free and still see where they are going or a shake and go flashlight so they never have to worry about batteries.

Then there are items for your scouts' bike. We've been busy getting the boys started working on the bike merit badge. For their safety they need a light on both the front and back of their bikes, a camel back or water bottle holder for their rehydration or simply a decent pair of shoes to bike in because biking in skater shoes, boots, sandals, etc. isn't safe. Of course there is always a new bike too if they have outgrown their current bike or if they have an older bike that works, then think about tire a repair kit, extra inner tubes, or a portable tire pump that mounts on the bike.

Of course in this economic situation many of us are in, you cannot afford such things so be creative. Most scouts want to work towards the rank of Eagle. To that end there are 12 required merit badges and of them Family Life and Personal Management both require time and energy of the parents to help the scout complete the badge. Create a gift certificate booklet valid for your time to sit down with them and work on a particular requirement of each badge to help them excel in Scouting or if they are younger scouts, time to assist them in learning knots, memorizing the Scout Law or Oath or being a volunteer on one of our many outings.

Finally, if folks just don't feel like going out and getting gifts, there is always donations for the boy's scout accounts to help pay for summer camp or other events.