

## Wilderness Skills Course Required Equipment List

Please note that the following items are required (unless noted as optional) for students to bring to the start of the class. All students must have their own equipment to complete the tasks during the course as many tasks are performed individually during the same time contrasts and sharing of equipment would drastically slow down the pace of the course. However, if you are bringing your child or another family member with you, there may be some equipment that could be shared between the two of you if you wanted to. Email [info@graybeardedgreenberet.com](mailto:info@graybeardedgreenberet.com) for more info on that. Please do not assume to know what items those are ahead of time and take it upon yourself to decide without coordinating with us prior as you are not familiar with the course layout and flow and may end up falling short on the required equipment.

Recommended items are in parentheses and linked for your convenience. These are RECOMMENDED items based on field testing and are the best fit for the course. You may substitute items with items that you already have, and of course you can purchase items elsewhere if you choose. You are responsible for ensuring they are an adequate replacement for that item.

The recommended items were also chosen because they are the best map for all of the GB2 Skills Courses, so students who continue training within the GB2 system will be set up for the best results without having to purchase different items or equipment for each course. The goal is to have one great set of gear and continue to learn to use it or swap it out with something you prefer better based on your own experience with it.

### Fire Kit

Lighter ([Bic Lighter](#))  
Stormproof Matches ([UCO Stormproof Match Kit](#) or [Behemoth](#))  
Ferrocerium Rod ([Kraftig](#), [Hexa](#), or [Zunden Fatty](#))  
Magnifying Lens ([Mag Lens](#) or [Hudson Bay Tin](#))  
Emergency Tinder ([GB2 Tinder Tabs](#) or [GB2 Fatwood Shavings](#))  
Tinder Pouch ([GB2 Tinder Pouch](#) or [8L Dry Sack](#))

### Shelter Kit

Tarp ([Oilcloth 8' x 8'](#) or [Flame-Resistant Canvas 8.5' x 8.5'](#))  
[GB2 Bed Sleeve](#) (or two 6 mil Contractor Bags)  
Wool Blanket ([GB2 Queen Size Wool Blanket](#))  
Paracord ([25'](#))  
#36 Bank Line ([1/4 lb Roll](#))

### Water Kit

Single Walled Metal Container [32oz with Nesting Cup and Lid](#)  
Cotton Material ([Shemagh](#) or [GB2 GP Cloth](#))

### Food Kit

[Bush Pot with Lid](#) (optional, but highly recommended)

## First Aid Kit

Tourniquet (CAT Tourniquet)  
Wound Packing Gauze (2)  
Emergency Trauma Dressing  
Emergency Survival Wrap

## Navigation Kit

Compass with Mirror and Mag Lens (Suunto MC2)  
Protractor with 1:25,000 Scale (Square or Round)  
Pace Beads  
Mechanical Pencils  
Waterproof Notebook (Rite in the Rain)

## Signal Kit

Pouch (GB2 Signal Joey)  
Signal BOSS Kit  
Headlamp with Extra Batteries (Princeton Tec Vizz or Tactical Vizz)

## Tool Kit

Fixed Blade belt Knife (Mora Carbon Garberg or Bushcraft Black or Companion)  
Folding Saw (Silky Gomboy)  
Multitool with Awl (Victorinox Ranger Wood 55)  
Duct Tape (Gorilla Tape)  
Large Needle (#14 Sail Needle or Leather Needle)

## Safety Items

Eye Protection  
Leather Gloves

Please note that if you choose to not bring or not use these items you are assuming all risk for any injury that may occur that these could have prevented.

## Optional

### Hygiene Kit

Any and all prescription medications and/or over-the-counter medication (do not bring illegal drugs or unprescribed medication). Insect repellent, particularly for mosquitoes and ticks, and personal first aid items for minor cuts, scrapes, etc, are both recommended.

### Clothing

Please dress appropriately and plan for unexpected weather. You are not limited in clothing, cold weather gear, extra socks, rain gear, etc. This can all be left in your pack at basecamp or placed in a larger Dry Sack at camp until needed.

## **More Info on Gear Choices:**

There are many different types of backpacks on the market that will suffice for this course. Depending on how your pack is made and the gear you choose, you should find that a 40L pack is sufficient. This should be coupled with a haversack and possibly some sort of water bottle carrier. Typically, you will pack in your gear to a base camp and set up, and when you leave to train you will have a very minimal kit with you including water, first aid, and safety equipment. This will all fit in the GB2 Haversack and a bottle carrier comfortably.

### **Fire Kit:**

Zippo lighters or the like are not recommended for this course as they do not facilitate all the tasks that we will practice with lighters.

Behemoth Matches include built-in Emergency Tinder and would count as both items.

Ferro Rod choice should be 1/2-inch diameter for best results and 5-6" long for ease of handling. Smaller ferro rods are not recommended. The Uberleben are the best balance of hardness for durability and softness for maximum sparks.

### **Shelter Kit:**

Alternative Tarps are perfectly okay to use. In past courses, the Emergency Reflective Tarp styles from any brand have not performed well for durability so they are not recommended and are considered more of a disposable item although they may make it through this course. Dimensions of 8' x 8' are the best suited, but other tarp dimensions can be used (5x7' at the smallest end and 9x9 at the largest end).

The GB2 Bed Sleeve is recommended for its durability and use for this and other courses. Alternatively, you can use two 6 mil contractor bags and be fine, they are just also disposable items really and you will sacrifice some comfort with them not being breathable like the bed sleeve, especially in hot weather. Sleeping Pads or Mats are not recommended as most courses, including this one, we try to get up off the ground due to snakes and bugs.

A thick 100% wool blanket, queen size, is most recommended for your comfort. The GB2 Wool Blanket is a special cut that is tailored to give you the best coverage as an individual sleeping in it in a wilderness setting. Some of the less necessary width of a regular queen blanket has been added to the more beneficial length, so you get the same amount of material but better situated for what you need it for. You will be shown how to use blankets effectively in conjunction with adequate shelter and fire. Thinner or smaller wool blankets, and those that have a lower wool content, will likely not be as comfortable for you resulting in a poor experience. Two twin-size wool blankets are usually adequate if you choose. Thin wool blankets are not the best choice for anything other than warm summer nights.

### **Water Kit:**

Filters are not necessary for this course. You can replace the shemagh or GB2 GP Cloth with a large piece of cotton material, at least 3' x 3'.

### **Food Kit:**

The 64-ounce Bush Pot is optional, but highly recommended as a means to cook camp meals along with your nesting cup. You may also choose to bring small metal skillet. An eating utensil like the Kanu spoon is also a good optional item.

### **First Aid Kit:**

Although we have dedicated medical staff and equipment in the unlikely event that someone gets injured, this small bleeding kit is meant to be carried on you at all times so that if you were to injure yourself away from the base camp, for example during a land nav course, you will have adequate supplies to manage a life-threatening bleed until help can arrive. The only recommended tourniquets are the genuine CAT (not the knockoffs that are significantly cheaper on many sites), the SOFT-T, The SAM XT, and the RevMedX). RATS are recommended for children although you will be shown how to use others effectively with children. The SWAT-T or similar is not recommended.

The Emergency Survival Wrap will also be used as part of your shelter kit in the event that temperatures drop low at night. You will be shown how to do this if applicable. Ensure that the dimensions of your Emergency Survival Wrap or mylar blanket closely match the dimensions of your chosen tarp size.

### **Navigation Kit:**

The Suunto MC2G is the most recommended compass. There are alternatives, but many do not line up as well with the skills taught in the course. The best fit is the MC2 G with the 1:25k scale included to match the maps and adjustable declination. Additionally, the mirror is used as part of your signal and first aid kit. The USGS models will work, but typically have a 1:24k scale which will not match up to the 1:25k maps.

It does not matter which protractor you choose between square or round, so long as they have the 1:25k scale to match the maps we use and supply. The protractors on the GB2 site have been selected after years of looking for the best protractor for civilian navigation training and have useful information printed on them, whereas most will not.

Mechanical pencils are the best for precise navigation and plotting. You will not be permitted to use pens on our maps. They are not laminated for use with map markers or grease pens.

The Rite in the Rain Waterproof Notebook is the best choice for this course. It protects your notes in inclement weather and has many useful scales on the covers that act as a backup to your protractor which will be necessary during the course.

### **Signal Kit:**

The GB2 Signal Joey coupled with the Signal BOSS Kit covers everything you need for the required Signal Kit. Alternatively, you can piece together your own kit. If you choose to do that, ensure that you have an orange signal panel, a signal mirror (this can be your compass mirror), a whistle, 2-3 Chemlights, Reflective Tacks, Reflective Cordage, and Trail Marking Tape.

### **Tool Kit:**

For the belt knife, it is not critical for this course that it be a naked carbon steel knife. You could use stainless if that is what you have or prefer. Courses like the Bushcraft Skills and Primitive

Skills course it does become a critical piece of kit and stainless will not be sufficient. If your knife is carbon steel, you can use that same knife for all courses so those are the recommendation. The knife does not have to be full tang, you are welcome to choose and use any grind you prefer, and it doesn't need to be more than 4-5" long as far as blade length. You will find larger "survival" knives or thick blades to be less than useful for actual wilderness skills.

Knife Maintenance will be taught at this course and strops and compound will be provided for student use during the course. There is no need to bring other items for maintenance of your blades.

Silky is the most recommended saw. There are a number of others that you could choose as an alternative, but often at a considerable sacrifice to speed and efficiency. Many have brought cheap saws instead and regretted it before the end of the course.

The multitool can be any Leatherman-style or Swiss Army knife style that you choose. Ensure it has a blade, and awl, and a saw. That's the important items. The pliers will only really be useful for the trapping module, so it isn't entirely critical that you have that style.

You should not need much duct tape. This, along with the needle, is for gear repair and patching most of all. Most will not have issues with their gear during the course, but it does happen. The leather needle on the GB2 Website is useful for repair and for crafts during the Bushcraft Skills Course so it was chosen as the best option. You can get away with a large sail needle if you choose.

***Any other questions on gear choices, please email [info@graybeardedgreenberet.com](mailto:info@graybeardedgreenberet.com).***