

TCS Big Wall Gear List

Climbing Equipment

Climbing Harness

Any normal trad harness will work. We recommend having a harness with adjustable leg loops. If you are looking to purchase a Big Wall specific harness, we recommend the Misty Mountain Cadillac with the "speed" buckles.

Helmet

Bring a helmet rated for climbing. Modern foam helmets are super lightweight and comfortable but are easy to break. We recommend a "burlier" model of foam helmet. Example: Petzl Meteor, Black Diamond Vision, for a cheaper more durable option look at the Black Diamond Half Dome Petzl Boreo or similar.

Rock Climbing Shoes

These should be comfortable shoes. A perfect fit should have zero dead space. Size the shoes so you can wear them without socks but that they are comfortable. If you are buying a shoe specifically for walls, try to find a shoe with a high ankle for protection in Off Width cracks. Some people also upsize their shoes a half size from their free climbing size so they can wear socks.

Chalk (optional)

Climbing chalk and chalk bag are optional.

Crack Gloves (optional)

Crack gloves are optional for courses with a bunch of anticipated crack climbing. It can be faster and less wasteful than athletic tape. We recommend the Black Diamond gloves as they have protection over the thumb, our next choice would be the Ocun Gloves.

Belay/Rappel Device

Please bring a "tube" style belay device with a clipping point to accommodate "guide" mode, also known as "plate" mode. Examples: We recommend the Black Diamond Guide ATC or the Mammut Nordwand.

Assisted Braking Belay Device (optional)

Strongly recommended for lead belays, but optional. We almost exclusively recommend the Petzl GriGri. If possible, try not to buy the Gri Gri + as it is heavier and clunkier to use.

Rappel Backup

Most people tie a “prusik loop” to be used as a rappel backup out of about 4 ft of 6mm accessory cord. It is also possible to buy a pre sewn loop, the most popular being the sterling hollow block.

Carabiners

Bring 4 locking carabiners and 4 non locking carabiners. Of the locking carabiners, you will want 2 “pear shaped” carabiners such as the black diamond rock lock and 2 “D” shaped carabiners such as the Black Diamond Hot Forge. For the non lockers, we recommend D shaped Wire Gate carabiners such as the Black Diamond Neutrino. Please only bring carabiners rated for climbing, only purchase these from reputable brands. Do NOT buy random unmarked carabiners from Amazon, these have been tested and are not up to spec.

Slings

Please bring one 48” or “double length” nylon sling. This should not be a dyneema sling. This can be substituted with an adjustable tether such as a petzl connect.

Cordelette

This is a 16 to 20 ft section of either 7mm accessory cord or 5.5mm “tech” cord.

Rock Climbing Rack

Please bring your rack. Mark all of your gear with nail polish. If you are looking to purchase a rack before the course then here are some recommendations. We recommend Black Diamond Camalots (not ultra lights) from 0.5 size (green) and up. For 0.4 size and down we recommend totems. For an equally good and slightly cheaper option, look at the Metolius master-cams. We would recommend starting with a single set of each size from the 0.3 size up to the #3 size. If you are looking to double up, start at the 0.5 size and expand from there. For nuts, we recommend the DMM offset nuts.

Alpine Quickdraws (Optional)

If you have some, bring them, a few regular draws can be useful as well.

Belay Gloves

Fingerless belay gloves are ideal so you can still free climb. Big Walling is rough on the hands.

Nut Tool

This is used for removing trad gear. Any nut tool on the market will do the job.

Multi Pitch Climbing Pack

For courses where multi pitch climbing is expected, please bring a small lightweight pack that you can climb with. Aim for something that is 10-15L and doesn't have a frame. Example: Black Diamond Rock Blitz

Day Pack

Look for something 25-50L. Aim for a no frills simple pack. The best day pack is the one you already have. The Metolius Haul Packs are great and indestructible cragging or day packs.

Big Wall Gear

We will provide some specialty equipment for the course. Anything marked "optional" will be provided. If you are looking to purchase gear, we will provide some gear recommendations below.

Ladders (optional)

We recommend Runout Customs' 6 step ladders. If they don't have any stock, the Yates 6 step ladders (with the narrow steps) are very similar. Lightweight "etrier" style or pocket ladders can be nice when you are primarily free climbing but are cumbersome for more intensive aid.

Daisies (optional)

2 Daisies. We recommend Yates adjustable daisies. You will also want to pair them with 2 "keylock" style lockers. Oval Keylock lockers are ideal if you can find them.

FiFi (optional)

We recommend a FiFi with a pre sewn webbing loop already on it. The Black Diamond FiFi comes with a nice length of webbing on it.

Ascenders (optional)

You will need a pair with a left and a right ascender. We recommend the Black Diamond Index Ascenders.

Haul Bag (optional)

The most versatile size is 80L. We strongly recommend the Runout Customs bags. If they don't have any stock, then the Metolius bags are also quite good.

Portaledge (optional)

If you are looking to buy new, we recommend the new Delta D4 Ledge. Barry at Durango Sewing Solutions has started making this design, Aideer also has started making them, but is based in Europe so shipping will be a lot. The rectangular D4 ledges are not nearly as nice to set up. These ledges are pretty pricey, another awesome and robust design is the old A5 Alpine Double. If you can find one of these on the used market they are worth snatching up, Runout Customs also made them for a while and marketed them as the "Ultralight Alpine Double". \

Clothing

Base Layer

We recommend a full sleeved "sun hoody" type of layer. If you don't have one of these a synthetic shirt will be fine

Light Insulating Layer

This should be a "fleece" weight layer.

Insulating Layer

This should be a medium weight puffy layer. Look for a layer of similar weight to the Arc'teryx Atom AR. Make sure this layer has a hood.

Large Insulating Layer (optional)

If the weather forecast looks cold, or you get cold easily it is recommended to have a belay parka type insulating layer.

Hard Shell Jacket

This should be gore tex or some similar membrane. For trips in WA we recommend a jacket with a 3 layer gore tex or “pro” level of membrane.

Soft Shell Pants

Make sure to have synthetic pants. It is crucial to have a non cotton layer in the alpine in case of inclement weather.

Long Underwear (optional)

If the weather forecast looks cold, or you get cold easily it is recommended to bring long underwear.

Hard Shell Pants (optional)

Only necessary on courses with a lot of rain in the forecast.

Miscellaneous

Hydration

Make sure to have 2.5 to 3 liters of water capacity. We strongly recommend that at least one liter is in the form of a “hard bottle”, as in not a hydration bladder. Gatorade bottles are a great way of cheaply increasing capacity if you are traveling or forgot bottles. We strongly recommend tapping webbing to either a 16 oz nalgene or gatorade bottle so you have a robust hanging water bottle for long days on the wall.

Food

You will be responsible for your own food on the course. Make sure to plan ahead to accommodate breakfasts and dinners depending on where the course is held. Make sure to bring enough snacks during the days. Choose snacks and lunches you can eat on the go, that don't require cooking.

Sunscreen

Sunscreen with zinc or some other physical barrier is ideal. We have a preference towards the thick paste that comes in a rub on “chapstick tube” type applicator as it is less messy.

Sunglasses

These should be UV protective. Aim for a “wrap around” shape that shields the sides of your eyes. Snow and Light colored rock reflect a lot of light. This side shield helps prevent reflected UV light from bouncing off the inside of your glasses and straining your eyes. If you have glasses without side shields, such as the “ray ban” shape, you can create effective side shields with duck tape. Purpose made glacier glasses are nice but not necessary.

Headlamp

Make sure to have freshly charged or new batteries.

Approach Shoes

Make sure to have a supportive shoe appropriate for rocky approaches and scrambling. Lightweight approach shoes like the la Sportiva TX2s and Evolv Cruiser won't work for big walling.

Car Camping Gear

For courses where you will be camping at a front country campground. Bring a tent, sleeping pad and sleeping bag as well as any cooking gear you will need.

Wall Climbing Gear

Sleeping Bag

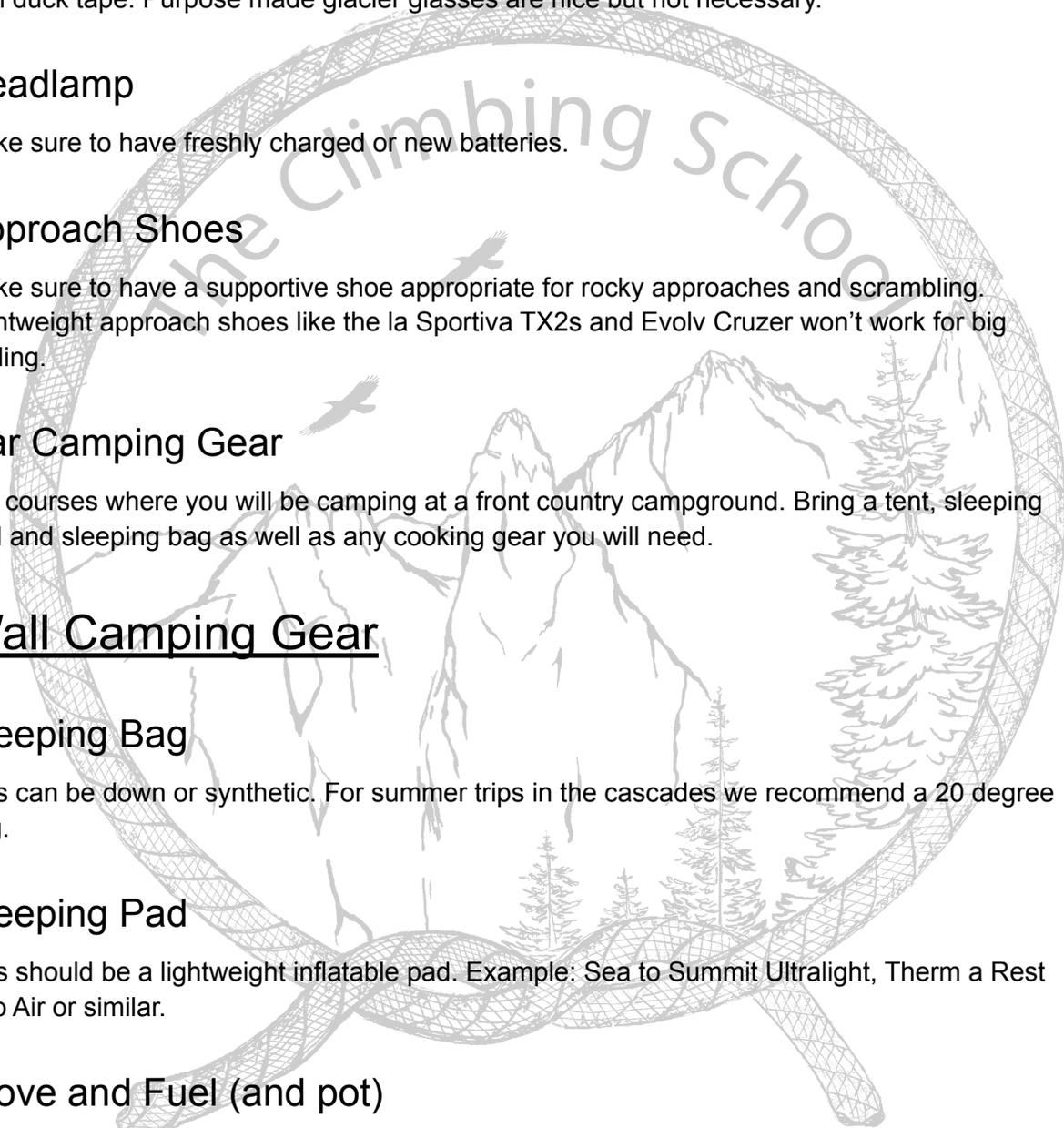
This can be down or synthetic. For summer trips in the cascades we recommend a 20 degree bag.

Sleeping Pad

This should be a lightweight inflatable pad. Example: Sea to Summit Ultralight, Therm a Rest Neo Air or similar.

Stove and Fuel (and pot)

We recommend having a lightweight canister stove. Make sure to have a pot that works with whatever stove you bring. For wall climbing it is mandatory to have a stove that has a locking mechanism between the pot and stove like the Jet Boil. .

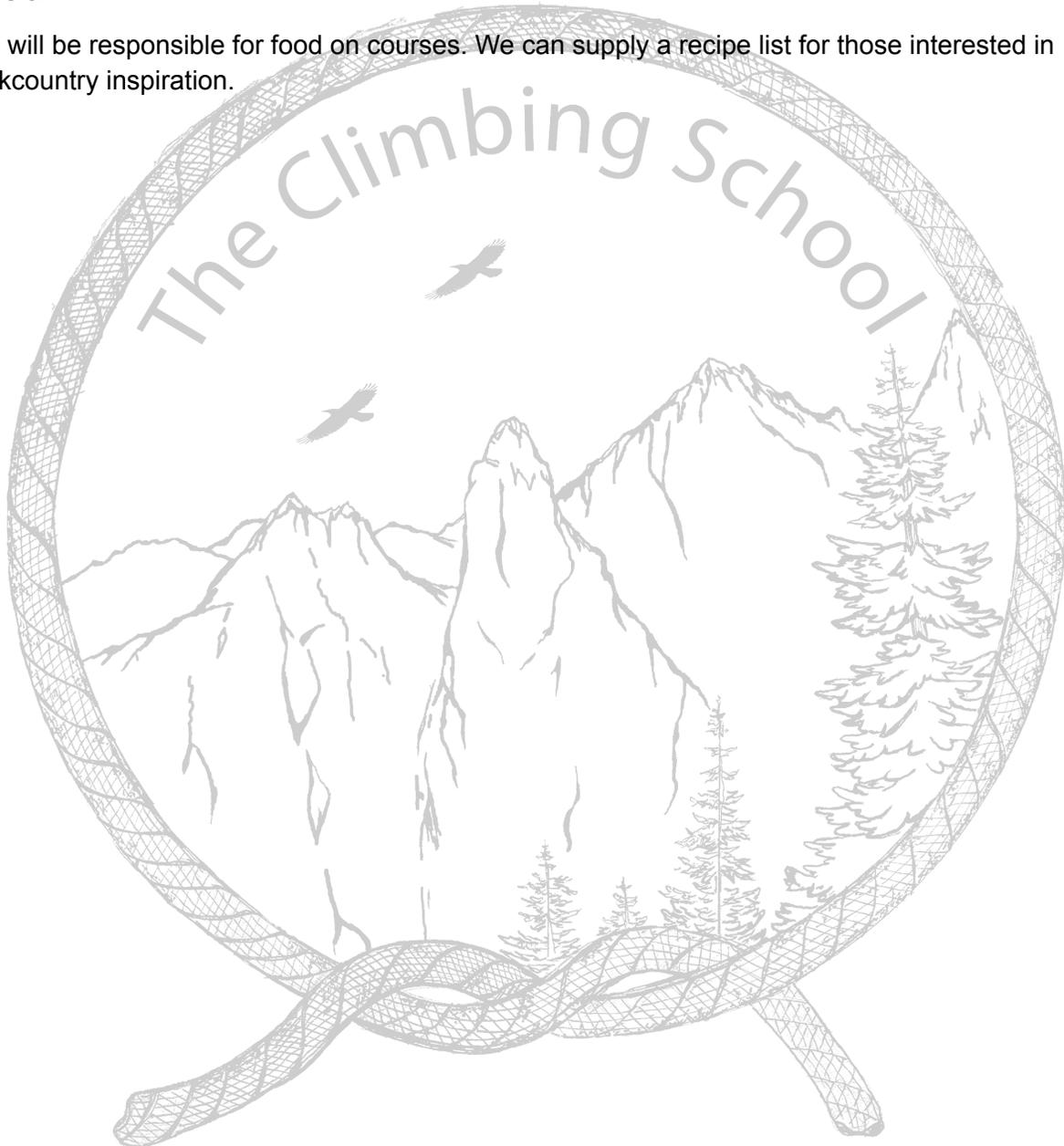


Bowl and Spoon

Easiest to forget items. Your bowl will depend a lot on your plan for meals. The GSI Fairshare mug is awesome. Any spoon will work. Plastic spoons don't seem to last long.

Food

You will be responsible for food on courses. We can supply a recipe list for those interested in backcountry inspiration.



Reach out if you have any questions about what gear or items you should bring.

TheClimbingSchool@gmail.com