

Outdoor Organizations Resource

This is a listing of Outdoor Organizations that I respect and value greatly for their contributions to Outdoor Education, Resource Management, Stewardship and Wilderness Training.

AMC – APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

WWW.OUTDOORS.ORG

Founded in 1876, the Appalachian Mountain Club promotes the protection, enjoyment and wise use of the mountains, rivers and trails of the Appalachian region. They encourage enjoyment and appreciation of the natural world because of their belief that successful conservation depends on this experience.

AHS – AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

WWW.AMERICANHIKING.ORG

As the national voice for America's Hikers, the American Hiking Society promotes and protects foot trails and the hiking experience. As a recreation based nonprofit organization, AHS champions conservation issues, builds partnerships between public and private stakeholders and provides critical resources to plan, fund and develop foot trails.

ATC – APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

WWW.APPALACHIANTRAIL.ORG

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is a volunteer based organization, dedicated to the preservation and management of the natural, scenic, historic and cultural resources associated with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in order to provide primitive outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for trail visitors.

BLM – BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WWW.BLM.GOV

The BLM is responsible for carrying out a variety of programs for the management and conservation, of resources on 256 million surface acres comprising 13 percent of the total land surface of the United States.

LNT – LEAVE NO TRACE

WWW.LNT.ORG

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is an educational, nonprofit organization dedicated to the responsible enjoyment and active stewardship of the outdoors by all people, worldwide.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

WWW.AUDUBON.ORG

Audubon's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. Their network of community based nature centers and chapters provide scientific and educational programs that engage millions of people of all ages in positive conservation experiences.

NOLS – NATIONAL OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

WWW.NOLS.EDU

Founded in 1965 by legendary mountaineer Paul Petzoldt, NOLS a non profit educational institution takes people of all ages on remote wilderness expeditions, teaching technical outdoor skills, leadership and environmental ethics in some of the world's wildest and most awe inspiring classrooms.

NPS – NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WWW.NPS.GOV

The National Park Service cares for US National Parks, a network of nearly 400 natural, cultural and recreational sites across the nation. Treasures in this system – the first of its kind in the world – have been set aside by the American people to preserve, protect and share, the legacies of this land.

OUTWARD BOUND

WWW.OUTWARDBOUND.ORG

Outward Bound is a non profit educational organization that serves people of all ages and backgrounds through active learning expeditions that inspire character development, self-discovery and service both in and out of the classroom.

SCA – STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

WWW.THESCA.ORG

SCA provides college and high school aged members with hands on conservation opportunities in virtually every field imaginable, from tracking grizzlies through the Tetons to restoring desert ecosystems and teaching environmental education at Washington DC's Urban Tree House. The SCA is building the next generation of conservation leaders.

THE SIERRA CLUB

WWW.SIERRACLUB.ORG

America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. Inspired by nature, this group is comprised of 1.3 million friends and neighbors, working together to protect our communities and our planet.

SOLO - STONEHEARTH OPENLEARNING ORGANIZATION
WWW.SOLOSCHOOLS.COM

SOLO is the leader in wilderness medicine training in the United States. Their 30+ year history is one of expertise, innovation and growth, and the owners, managers and teaching staff are committed to making the learning experience the best it can be.

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WWW.FWS.GOV

The Fish and Wildlife Service assists in the development of environmental stewardship ethics based on ecological principles and scientific knowledge of fish and wildlife. Guiding conservation, development and management of the nations fish and wildlife resources, they administer a national program providing public opportunities to understand, appreciate and use these resources.

USFS – US FOREST SERVICE
WWW.FS.FED.US

Established in 1905, the Forest Service is an agency of the US Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service manages public lands in national forests and grasslands encompassing 193 million acres.

**CONTINUE TO SCROLL DOWN FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
OUTDOOR PRODUCT MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS.**

Recommended Outdoor Manufacturer Resource

This is a listing of outdoor equipment manufacturers that I personally endorse. I have used products produced by each of these companies in challenging conditions with excellent results.

ASOLO WWW.ASOLO.COM

A manufacturer of **Backpacking Boots and Hiking Shoes** at the top of their game. I am especially fond of the ballistic nylon that they use in some of their upper construction. The first composite boot that I owned was an all leather ASOLO boot.

AQUA MIRA Technologies WWW.AQUAMIRA.COM

This company produces **Water Treatment Products**. If travelling alone or in a small group, I will always use their Chlorine Dioxide drops.

BIG AGNES WWW.BIGAGNES.COM

One of the best manufacturers of **Tents, Sleeping Bags and air chamber Sleeping Pads**. My favorite **Backpacking Tent** at the moment is their **Seedhouse SL2** and in warmer seasons, I use their **Air Core pads**.

DERMATONE WWW.DERMATONE.COM

Far and away, the best producer of **Lip-Balm, Sunscreen and Skin Protection** that I've ever used. I have put their products to the test at altitude, mountaineering in extreme conditions. Even when I'm just out and about, I always carry their little tin of **Z-Cote**.

EK ACCESSORIES WWW.EKUSA.COM

This company makes a wide array of products. My favorite may sound a bit offensive. It's called '**CAT CRAP**'. Easily the best **Anti-Fogging Agent** on the market. Just wipe on and wipe off of eye glasses or ski goggles.

GUYOT DESIGNS WWW.GUYOTDESIGNS.COM

Guyot makes a range of innovative sundries. They were the first to come up with a no drip solution to drinking from a Nalgene bottle called the **SplashGuard**, and they have a collapsible '**Squishy Bowl**' product that's great for backpacking.

GREGORY WWW.GREGORYPACKS.COM

Gregory makes some of the highest quality Packs you will find. The thing that makes them stand out is their attention to detail in the harness. Provided that you are properly fitted, unlike most packs these packs are anatomically correct.

KERSHAW WWW.KERSHAWKNIVES.COM

I'll only carry one knife. It's the non-serrated version of the Kershaw Vapor. It's an easy opening, clip lock blade that holds its edge. 'Nuff said.

KELTY WWW.KELTY.COM

The very first pack I ever owned was a little external frame made by Kelty. Today, they make an array of packs, shelters, sleeping bags and kid carriers. My favorite daypack of all is the Kelty Redtail.

LEKI WWW.LEKI.COM

Leki produces the highest quality Trekking Poles available. I've put more miles and impact under my Leki Makalu poles than any other poles could handle. New tips and expanders every few hundred miles!

LOWA WWW.LOWABOOT.COM

In this document, I only endorse 2 boot and shoe manufacturers with good reason. Lowa has been making boots for almost 100 years. You can't fake that kind of experience. I swear by my old midweight Lowa Arko hiking boots.

McNETT WWW.MCNETT-OUTDOOR.COM

In The Ultimate Hiking Guide, I make a big point of maintaining your gear. McNett has helped me do just that for years. They not only produce the best gear repair products, they also do hiking accessories and water treatment.

MOUNTAINSMITH WWW.MOUNTAINSMITH.COM

Whenever I need to get out by myself for the day, I always use my old classic Mountainsmith Lumbar Pack. It has been a faithful friend. Today, they provide a great line of backpacks, travel gear and accessories as well.

MOUNTAIN HARDWAREWWW.MOUNTAINHARDWARE.COM

Here is a dynamic outdoor manufacturer that got it right. They have an impressive range of well designed outdoor products. They make my favorite light weight insulated jacket called the Compressor Jacket.

MSR – MOUNTAIN SAFETY RESEARCHWWW.MSRGEAR.COM

MSR is a dominant force in technical outdoor product. They manufacture stoves, tents, cookwear, snowshoes, water treatment equipment and much more. I use their Superfly stove, Miniworks water filter and several other products.

NALGENEWWW.NALGENE-OUTDOOR.COM

The trail bottles they produce are recognized worldwide. Started as a scientific lab container company, they saw an important niche and began producing the most durable water bottles. They also manufacture hydration systems.

NIKWAXWWW.NIKWAX.COM

If you're looking to wash and waterproof technical outerwear, boots or gear the right way, there is no better manufacturer of these products. I've used almost everything that they make and recommend them highly.

OR - OUTDOOR RESEARCHWWW.ORGEAR.COM

OR is another diverse company producing a huge selection of outdoor clothing and gear. They make some of the best technical apparel, sleeping bags and shelters. I never go backpacking without OR Gaiters or mountaineering without OR Overmitts.

OSPREYWWW.OSPREYPACKS.COM

Well known for their innovative pack designs, Osprey is well ahead of the curve. They make all sizes of daypacks, rucksacks and backpacks as well as travel gear.

PETZLWWW.PETZL.COM/EN/OUTDOOR

Legendary in their production of climbing, mountaineering, safety and search and rescue gear, they also produce an incredible selection of LED headlamps. The only 2 headlamps I own are the Petzel Tikka and the E-Lite.

PRINCETON TECWWW.PRINCETONTEC.COM

This company specializes in lighting products only. They make a great line of headlamps. The two products they make that I rely on are the Pulsar 2 which is an LED accessory light and the Blast which is a mini Xenon handheld.

PRO BARWWW.THEPROBAR.COM

In my mind, there's only one power bar. These are a mass of whole foods that provide sustained energy and the only ones that I consider to be a meal replacement. Many flavors sure to please, Whole Berry Blast is my favorite.

SEA TO SUMMITWWW.SEATOSUMMIT.COM

One of the best producers of outdoor sundries, they provide everything from sleeping bag liners to stuff sacks and travel accessories. I love their microfiber towels, use their Reactor sleeping bag liner, bug head net and several other items.

SMARTWOOLWWW.SMARTWOOL.COM

Smartwool is very well known manufacturer of activesport and casual socks and clothing. I have been using their socks for years. They wick perspiration better than any other sock I've worn and they're far more comfortable.

SNOWPEAKWWW.SNOWPEAK.COM

One of my favorite compact stoves of all time is the Snowpeak Giga. Take a look at the rest of their lines though... light weight, versatile and very well designed backpacking and camping equipment.

STERIPENWWW.STERIPEN.COM

A huge advance in compact and easy to use water treatment systems, Steripen uses UV light to neutralize bacterial and viral content, providing safe drinking water anywhere.

SUPERFEETWWW.SUPERFEET.COM

I am an unofficial spokesperson for their products. They produce superior footbeds that do what a footbed is supposed to, support the anatomical curvature of the foot and reduce kinetic energy shock. I have them in every pair of shoes I own.

SUUNTO

WWW.SUUNTO.COM

The only map reading compass I ever use is a Suunto. They were the first to invent the liquid filled compass and they produce an incredible line of advanced barometers, altimeters and precision instruments as well.

THERMAREST

WWW.THERMAREST.COM

The premier manufacturer of self inflating sleeping pads, they produce the most comfortable camping pads and compact hiking pads there are. I use their Prolite four season pad on most of my backpacking trips.

**CONTINUE TO SCROLL DOWN FOR INFORMATION ABOUT
ONLINE OUTDOOR RETAILERS.**

Recommended Online Outdoor Retailer Resource

This is a listing of online outdoor retailers that I personally endorse. I have purchased products sold by each of these companies and had good experiences with them.

ALTREC WWW.ALTREC.COM

BACKCOUNTRY WWW.BACKCOUNTRY.COM

CAMPMORE WWW.CAMPMORE.COM

MOOSEJAW WWW.MOOSEJAW.COM

MOUNTAINGEAR WWW.MOUNTAINGEAR.COM

ROCKCREEK WWW.ROCKCREEK.COM

SIERRA TRADING POST WWW.SIERRATRADINGPOST.COM

USOUTDOOR WWW.USOUTDOOR.COM

You don't have to go broke getting into hiking and backpacking. When you first get started, there will be certain items that you need to purchase.

The good news is that once you have the basic gear necessities and you spend a little time periodically maintaining them, you will be set for years.

Some research requires a hand-on inspection. For instance, Pack and Boot Fitting I consider to be an art form and in order to know you will have the best fit, you need to visit a brick and mortar outdoor retailer near you.

Some of the best deals though are found online because they don't need to pass along any fees incurred by maintaining retail locations.