

# Packing List/What To Bring

Fairbanks and Whitehorse have many services including large stores, as well as lots of options for food, groceries, house wares, pharmacy items and clothing.

## Clothing

Be prepared for extremely cold and sometimes windy conditions. This is essential for your safety and enjoyment of the Yukon Quest including watching dog team arrivals, outdoor volunteer shifts (if applicable), general travel, and other outdoor activities you might choose to participate in. Even if you are coming from a cold climate, please be aware that your ski jacket and winter boots from home may not be sufficient for standing outside in temperature of -20° C/ -30° F **and colder**.

The best way to pack and/or purchase is to have many layers of clothing with breathable fabrics (wool whenever possible). Pay close attention to your hands and feet – bring warm socks (possibly layers) as well as warm gloves/mittens with an outer wind-blocking layer and lots of hand-warmer packets. You will want all exposed skin covered!

## Rentals / Purchase of Gear

You can rent parkas and good winter boots for one or two weeks in Whitehorse. It can be expensive, but worthwhile, saving you from having to purchase very expensive new gear. It also saves you from packing them as they can be bulky, and by renting, you are sure to get the right type of boots/parka for the local conditions.

**Whitehorse-** Offering a variety of winter **rental** packages.

**Men's World** - 867-667-2817

Book early! It is best to book at least two months in advance.

[www.mensworld.com](http://www.mensworld.com)

**Fairbanks-** There are local outfitters that can fit you with Alaskan gear **for sale** to fend off the cold Interior winter weather. We recommend our official specialty outdoor gear sponsor:

**Apocalypse Designs** - 201 Minnie Street, Fairbanks, AK (907) 451-7555 - [www.akgear.com](http://www.akgear.com)

## List of recommended items:

- ✓ Warm-rated sleeping bag (rating of -20°C/ -30°F) and sleeping pad
- ✓ Warm pants and long sleeve shirts (layers, breathable fabrics: polar fleece, micro fleece or wool), under and outer layers
- ✓ Warm mittens/gloves, toque/hat, scarf and lots of warm socks
- ✓ Insulated windproof pants (ski pants)
- ✓ A few packages of chemical feet and hand warmers
- ✓ Boots and parka
- ✓ Sun protection (sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm)
- ✓ Any special food or medications you may require
- ✓ Water bottle and thermos
- ✓ Phone card, memory card and spare batteries
- ✓ Moisturizers and hand sanitizer
- ✓ A headlamp and lithium batteries

## Other Considerations

### Water

Interior Alaska and the Yukon have a dry, cold (arctic) climate in the winter, so make sure you drink a lot of water to stay hydrated.

### Weather

Be prepared! The temperatures in the Yukon and Alaska in February can be extreme.

The average temperature in Whitehorse in February is  $-14^{\circ}\text{C}/7^{\circ}\text{F}$  with an **extreme minimum of  $-51^{\circ}\text{C}/-60^{\circ}\text{F}$** .

Average wind speed is 13.5 km/h or 8.38 m/h.

Normal winter temperatures in Fairbanks are between  $-20^{\circ}\text{F}$  to  $-30^{\circ}\text{F}/-28^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-34^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Temperatures can be as low as  **$-60^{\circ}\text{F}/-51^{\circ}\text{C}$** .