



Lightweight Backpacking & Camping

Ryan Jordan, George Cole, Lee Van Horn, Alan Dixon, Rick Dreher, Dave Schultz, Stephanie Jordan, Alison Simon, Bill Thorneloe, Ellen Zaslav

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LIGHTWEIGHT BACKPACKING AND CAMPING offers insight into gear selection and techniques that can be used to reduce pack weight and decrease the margin of risk that occurs by taking less weight in the backcountry. This book is an ideal primer for the lightweight backpacking student who desires to build a solid foundation of knowledge about equipment and skills.

From the Preface: The Benefits of Going Light

Some hikers, upon converting to the ultralight style of backpacking, become rabid proselytizers for the cause, convinced that everyone needs to get their base pack weight below 10 pounds to avoid the eternal damnation of 65-pound packs. Though it may border on blasphemy—since a good chunk of my recent life has been devoted to creating ultralight gear and getting it into the hands of like-minded enthusiasts—I’m not convinced that everyone needs a small base pack weight. If you are young, in great physical shape, your trips consist entirely of relatively short distances into the backcountry to establish base camps for day trips, and you already own a bunch of traditional backpacking gear, you can probably save yourself the trouble of reading this book.

Good for the Body

Good for the Environment

Good for the Mind

Good for Simplicity

Good for Relationships

Good for More

Since the journey to lightness is largely a cerebral one, where does one start? Self-education is critical to avoid getting in a situation where you didn’t bring enough gear to be safe for your experience level. Your journey should be one of baby steps, learning and trying a couple of new things on each trip, finding what works for you and what doesn’t. There are many online email lists that are a great resource. Basically, any list having to do with long hikes—such as the Pacific Crest Trail, Continental Divide Trail, or Appalachian Trail—will have a following of experienced ultralighters. There are beginning to be significant books with the latest information on ultralight backpacking, like the book you are holding now. Dive in and start your own journey to lightness!

-GLEN "HOMEMADE" VAN PESKI

Founder, Gossamer Gear

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Will Cathcart:

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