



2011 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

We couldn't squeeze everything into the magazine, so here's the complete list of the very coolest gear for all of the outdoor enthusiasts on your shopping list.

Yep, it's time to start thinking about your loved ones—and maybe a little about yourself—as the holiday season approaches. WTA's gear team has spent hours consulting elves, in-laws, loved ones and your favorite gear companies to generate a broad list of holiday season gift picks. From stocking stuffers to pure gear bling, here's our 2011 Holiday Gift Guide to give you a cheat sheet for all the best gear out there this season.

Better Than Coal

These useful items make great stocking stuffers and small gifts.



Help keep their noggins warm on chilly hiking days with a **Sherpa Adventure Hat**. Handknit using 100 percent lambswool and lined with cozy Polarfleece, these stylish hats not only make great gifts, they also support the local home knitters of Nepal where they're made. Available in a variety of styles and colors. \$25

Mountain Hardwear Bandito Fingerless Gloves provide supreme dexterity, while the convertible mitt quickly adds warmth and protection from the elements with a windproof Deflection™ soft shell. When using their fingers is critical to the success of your mission, this glove-mitt combo is the answer. \$45



No more broken fingernails from coaxing out the tools in your multitool. Forward Action Spring Technology make opening the **Gerber Crucial F.A.S.T**

Multitool easy. With a bottle opener,

Phillips screwdriver, standard screwdriver and wire cutter, anyone on your gift list would be thrilled to have this handy tool for camp or home. \$50



Exped Shrink Bags are an amazing storage solution for any outdoor activity. These watertight bags come in a variety of sizes, are shaped to fit in a pack and feature an air-release valve for the ultimate compression to keep your goods dry without creating extra bulk. \$32 - \$39



Help them protect their smartphone or gps unit with a **Seal Line iSeries™ Case**. The high-clarity, touch-sensitive window allows easy functionality, while the SealLock™ zip closure keeps the elements at bay. Also available for tablet-sized components. \$25 - \$35



Drop some natural protection from the sun into their stocking with **Beyond Coastal Face Stick and Lip Balm**. The Facestick sunscreen offers non-mineral UVA/UVB, water- and sweat-resistant protection in a clean-hands applicator, while the Active Lip Balm keeps lips hydrated and provides SPF 15 sun protection. \$3 - \$7

Take That, Jack Frost

These apparel solutions will help keep out the long Pacific Northwest winter.

The **Isis PDO Hoodie** is a fashionable and functional layer to add to your collection. Its medium weight adds a lot of insulation without a lot of bulk and will keep you dry in a light drizzle. With a snug hood and thumb loops on the sleeves, this comfy hoodie is perfect for trail running and short hikes. \$115





The **Ibex Woolie Zip T** is a lightweight 100 percent Merino wool baselayer. It's not bulky under your layers—allowing the wearer to move freely! Plus, the ability to unzip the neck adds breathability to this excellent base layer. Mens and women's versions available. \$85

"The Ibex Woolie is a perfect layer for any season of hike or run. Plus, it contours perfectly to a women's shape, so I can wear it out to my local tavern and not worry about wearing my hiking clothes in the city."

— Cheri Higman
WTA Gear Tester



Keep them warm, and make them feel good about what they're wearing with an **Icebreaker Sierra Sweater**. Made of sustainably-produced Merino Wool instead of synthetic materials, these lightweight sweaters are cool in summer, warm in winter and naturally odor-resistant. Available in men's and women's sizes. \$150 - \$225

Smartwool Microweight Natural Rise Bottoms are made from 100% merino wool, and are ideal for a women specific light weight base layer. Extra comfort is built into these bottoms as they have a super comfy waist band and flatlock seams. Also, since they are made from 100% wool, they are relatively stink free compared to some other synthetic base layers. \$65



Loot Luggers

Your special someone might need a new bag to carry all this new gear. These small packs and sacks will make shouldering the load an easy job.



The summit-bagger on your list will love the **North Face Verto 26 Pack**. This roomy 11-ounce backpack is constructed of ultratough, ultralight 100-denier ripstop cargo chute fabric that compresses into its own pocket! Features include two zippered pockets, a water bottle pocket and a hydration port. \$69

The all-new **Mountainsmith Swift FX Camera Pack** might just be the perfect lightweight solution for the day hiker who wants to carry a digital SLR camera kit. This comfy lumbar-style pack can be snugly secured with a shoulder strap/waist strap combo that allows quick access to your camera at all times. The Swift FX also features a padded, customizable main compartment and two additional pockets for memory cards, filters and other items. \$69



For short day hikes or just wandering around town, give your friend or loved one an **OverLand Equipment Shasta Sling Pack**. With multiple storage compartments, a water bottle pocket and a front pocket organizer, this low-profile pack is perfect to grab and go. \$75



The **CamelBak Highwire 25** incorporates their tried-and-true hydration system with technical and comfort features for a perfect pack for ultralighters and weekend dayhikers alike. Features include hip belt stash pockets, a ventilated back panel, and ice axe loops. \$115

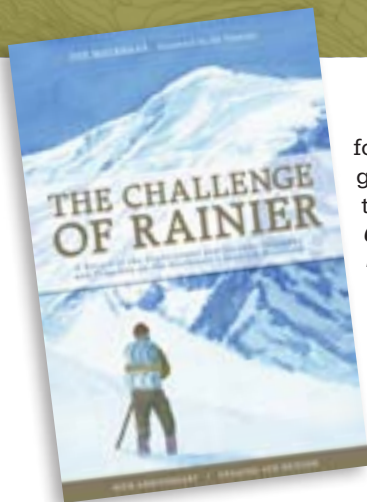
Milk & Cookies

You simply cannot go wrong with any of these classic gear items as a gift.

When it comes to tried-and-true compact backpacking stoves, the **MSR Pocket Rocket** takes the cake. This multi-award winning canister stove weighs just three ounces and boils a liter of water in less than four minutes. No hoses, no priming—just light and go. Includes case. \$40



Every hiker and backpacker needs to stay hydrated, and that's where the **Katadyn Hiker PRO Water Filter** continues to shine, year after year. Lightweight and easy to use, it filters the nasty bacteria and silt from mountain water sources, providing clean, fresh drinking water. Includes carry sack, bottle adaptor and maintenance kit. \$80



Looking for a classic gift for the hiker that's already got everything? Present them with a copy of **The Challenge of Rainier, 40th Anniversary**, a Mountaineers Books publication. This book explores the people and history of adventuring on Washington's signature mountain. \$25

It's a Wonderful Life

There's really nothing better than a sweet, sweet camp setup. Here are a few items to enhance the base camping experience.

The ridiculously lightweight (8.5 ounces!) titanium **Jetboil Sol Ti** will thrill any ultralight backpacker. Jetboil's new Thermo-Regulate Burner Technology and push-button igniter offers reliable four-season use in one of the smallest fully contained cook systems available. \$149



The camp gourmet on your gift list will be singing your praises when you give them a **GSI Crossover Kitchen Kit**. All tucked inside a lightweight tote, this kit includes folding spoon, spatula and tongs, dish scraper, cutting board, seasoning jar and more! Everything one needs to prepare—and clean up after—delicious backcountry meals. It is also compatible with GSI's nFORM Crossover Cooksets. \$35



They'll be nice and comfy in a new **Nemo Obi 2P Tent**. This finely tuned backpacking tent offers ample head-room and vestibule storage space for two people, while keeping pack weight down to a mere 3 pounds! Included are GREEN anodized DAC Featherlite NSL poles and a compressible dry bag stuff sack. Footprint sold separately. Tent \$389; Footprint \$45



That cuddly couple on your list will enjoy a good night's sleep with the **Therm-a-Rest Down Coupler**. This 650-fill quilted down sleeve connects two Therm-a-Rest mattresses into the ultimate backcountry feather bed. Available in three sizes and lightweight enough for base camping or backpacking. \$99 - \$129

Give the gift of a holiday feast with a **gift card from Packit Gourmet**.

With a wide variety of trail breakfasts, lunches and dinners—as well as bulk ingredients to create your own menu, Packit Gourmet's products offer natural and organic alternatives to store-bought packaged meals. \$10+



"These are some of the best backpacking meals I've ever eaten!"

— Eli Boschetto
Editor, *Washington Trails*

Bling for the Holidays

These pieces may be on the spendy side, but they will certainly put a smile on any gear hound's face.

Let them toast the New Year with a **Snow Peak Titanium Flask**. Constructed of über-strong, über-lightweight nonallergenic titanium, these pocket-sized flasks won't add a metallic taste to their favorite spirit and will appeal to even the most critical ounce-counters. Available in three sizes, gift packaging includes suede carrying case and a filling funnel. \$140 - \$160



The **Suunto Core Altimeter Watch** is so much more than an altimeter watch, your giftee will feel lost without it. Quality and function are paired perfectly with rugged, yet stylish presentation to make this an instant favorite. \$249



Are the lights of the New Year's fireworks burning your eyes? Try the **Julbo Nomad Photochromic Glacier Sunglasses**. Their lenses rapidly adjust to light conditions, so you no longer need to manually swap out lenses, and their anti-fog technology and abrasion-resistant lenses make these glasses well-suited for outdoor adventures. \$130





There are less expensive poles out there, but there aren't many better poles than the lightweight **Black Diamond Alpine Carbon Cork Trekking Poles**. These are a great bet for those with knee and back issues. \$140

Winter Break

Do your loved ones get more out of an experience? Try getting them one of these unique gifts.

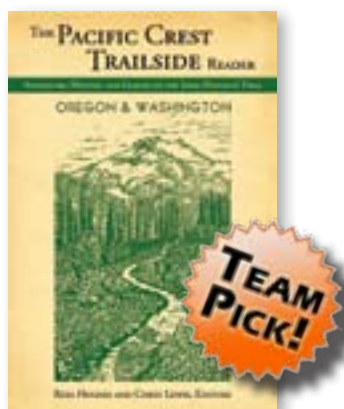
What better gift for your loved ones—and yourself—than the joys and thrills of visiting the most beautiful places around the Northwest and the entire country with a new **Washington Discover Pass, Northwest Forest Pass, or America the Beautiful National Parks Pass**. And best of all, these are gifts that keep on giving for a whole year! \$30 - \$80



Got a hiker on your shopping list that loves the outdoors but doesn't need anything? Then make a **donation to their favorite conservation organization**—

The Wilderness Society, National Parks Conservation Association, Pacific Crest Trail Association or, might we humbly add, Washington Trails Association. \$ANY

Encourage your loved one to cozy up to the fireplace—or campfire—with the new **Pacific Crest Trailside Readers** from The Mountaineers Books. These two new anthologies—one for California, one for Oregon and Washington—explore the history, people, places, humor, traditions and myths of the 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail. Each volume features unique maps and woodcut illustrations. \$20.



We hope our list makes your holiday shopping a little easier, leaving you more time to run, ski, hike, snowshoe and drink cocoa this winter. Good luck!♦



Your Bling, Our Ca-Ching

WTA is part of REI.com's affiliate program. If you shop at REI.com through

WTA's affiliate links in this guide, we earn a little cash (five percent commission) to put toward supporting Washington's trails. The best part: it doesn't cost you anything extra!



WTA assistant crew leader Scott Metzler contemplates his next move. Photo by Mason White.

Ask the Experts

What should my next pack be? Will I be happier with a down bag or a synthetic bag? How do I get this peanut butter stain out of my trekking pants? You have questions about gear. WTA's gear team has answers—or we'll find them.

Send your gear question to gear@wta.org and one of our experienced gear team members will answer. Every issue, we'll select one "Question of the Month" to appear in *Washington Trails*. If we run your question, you'll get a piece of expert-tested* gear.

*By this, we mean literally. Gear prizes will be used products field-tested by the WTA gear team.