



## THE ANNOTATED PACKING LIST

By Andrew Vivian, Programme Director

### THE BASICS

This packing list is a suggestion based on my 30 years of being a staff member at summer camps. It assumes 7 days at the course, where the environment can be very wet, and the temperature can vary between the 90s and the 50s (30°C to 10°C) in the space of one day.

If you visit Bishop's College School's website (at [www.bishopscollegeschool.com](http://www.bishopscollegeschool.com)), you will have a better idea of the facilities. Please edit this list as necessary or practical for you, and ensure that the chorister's name is on **EVERYTHING**, including less obvious items.

### GENERAL PACKING LIST

✘ **DO NOT need to bring sleeping bags or pillows (bedding will be provided for all)**

**Small backpack to carry materials for the day for boys and teens.**

1 rain coat and hat / poncho

1 set PJs

7 pairs underwear

2 pairs shorts

1 or 2 pairs swim trunks

**3 towels (a combination of bath and beach.) ADULTS NEED THIS TOO.**

6 pairs of socks

2 pairs running shoes

1 pair sandals

1 or 2 pairs long pants (*at least one pair should be suitable for running through the bush.*)

6 t-shirts (*Please make sure one of them has white as the background colour, and one of them has an obvious background colour that is neither white nor gray.*)

1 long-sleeved shirt (*for warmth or protection from bugs.*)

1 sweatshirt or sweater *just in case it gets chilly in the evening or morning.*

1 hat *for purposes of protection from the elements or the amusement of others.*

Sun block

Bug repellent (*please avoid spray cans*). *The biting insects tend to be waning by early August, but as there might be a wet summer, or evenings that encourage mosquitoes or a few big-league flies (deer and horse, not pop), participants will be encouraged to wear repellent when outside during the evening. Please get a liquid product that has between 20 and 30 percent DEET. Anything else (like citronella) or a lower concentration of DEET tends to be ineffective after 20 minutes.*

Fan (*a six to eight-inch fan is recommended for comfort at night in case of a heat wave.*)

Toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)

Laundry bag or reasonable facsimile.

\$10 cash for Sunday afternoon lunch. In addition, there is a Bishops College School Supply Store which has lots of cool items for sale, many of them in the colour of purple (*it is Bishop's School*). We would be happy to store any cash for the boys during the course of the week for safety – just turn it in at the time of registration, in an envelope marked with the campers name on it and the amount enclosed.

## SUNDAY DRESS

Our final services are held at Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal, a poorly-ventilated building with no air conditioning. The choir is placed at the back of the church. As the building can be very warm, we **do not use** choir vestments, so do not bring them along. Our Sunday dress will be:

- Black polishable shoes (dress shoes, as opposed to “good sneakers”)
- Black socks
- Dress shorts or pants, any colour is acceptable.
- The newly-provided MBCC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Polo Shirt.

## OPTIONAL

- Camera
- Padlock. There are lockers available for all participants in Molson Hall.
- Swim goggles
- Tennis racket and balls (There are tennis courts we can use.)
- Musical instrument
- Adult/teen organists may bring along music to practice during the week. We will set up a practice schedule for the chapel organ once all participants have arrived. There are also four practice rooms (with piano) available for our use which any may use for musical purposes.
- Reading material or playing cards or suchlike, for use during rest period each day, when activities are required to be individual and silent. (A small personal device (mp3 player, iPod, or the like) is fine, but is brought entirely at the risk of the owner.) Sleep becomes an increasingly popular rest period activity as the week progresses.
- Board games
- Flashlight and batteries
- After-Bite
- While we will not have WiFi access, a computer lab will be made available for use by our adults.

## DO NOT BRING: (WE REALLY MEAN IT!)

- ✘ Anything that you would regret getting “borrowed” or lost. This usually falls in the category of expensive and desirable personal electronics.
- ✘ Stereo (A small personal device – mp3 player, iPod, or the like – is fine as long as it is used with headphones)
- ✘ Participants may bring cell phones for travel before and after camp. **BUT, BOYS MAY NOT USE THEM DURING THE COURSE OF THE WEEK, AND WE WILL STORE THEM FOR SAFE KEEPING ON ARRIVAL AT THE COURSE.** We remind all US participants that Canada is rarely included in cell phone plans, and calls home can be **VERY** expensive. Any questions on this may be directed to a camper from a few years back, who was on the phone home quite a lot, and received a bill of over \$800 a few weeks later... If communication is needed, please call Bishop’s College School, and they will pass the message on. On a practical level though, it is not possible for parents to communicate with boys during the week by phone.)
- ✘ Fishing rod
- ✘ Candy or junk food.
- ✘ Matches or lighters.

## POST SCRIPT

For those who are flying, this seems like a huge list. To adapt, please cut down on numbers, and washes can be done on an emergency basis during the week. The machines are domestic quality, and the volunteer MBCC staff will be happy to instruct the participants on the joys of colours versus whites.