Hello,

How exciting that you are considering this residential program at Merry Lea! Students frequently ask what things they should be sure to bring to Rieth Village, and what they can leave behind. It is our hope that this list serves to equip each student with gear they will be glad to have, while saving them from bringing unnecessary items.

Several items have been hyperlinked to a website with a good-quality affordable example of that item. These links are not meant to be endorsements of the specific products, but rather a reference tool in helping you identify appropriate gear.

**You will definitely need:**

☐ sheets

☐ towel(s)

☐ pillow

☐ bicycle (BUT some are available if you do not own one or cannot bring yours)

☐ food for personal meals and snacks

☐ laptop (BUT shared desktop computers are available to all students in the study lounge)

☐ [lunch box](http://www.rei.com/product/828510/rei-personal-cooler%2C-coal/titanium?preferredSku=8285100004&cm_mmc=cse_froogle-_-pla-_-product-_-8285100004&mr:referralID=b54b9878-5e63-11e2-b779-001b2166c62d)

☐ swimsuit

☐ water bottle(s) with “loop” cap rather than “sport/bite-valve” cap – reduces the risk of contamination [stainless steel](http://www.kleankanteen.com/products/classic/klean-kanteen-27oz-classic.php) or [BPA-free plastic](http://www.rei.com/product/776181/rei-nalgene-everyday-wide-mouth-loop-top-water-bottle-32-fl-oz)

☐ [rain gear (top & bottom; avoid the cheap vinyl suits, you get what you pay for with these)](http://www.froggtoggs.com/#outerwear/all/DD1330/)

☐ any required medications

☐ hat with a brim/bill

☐ sunscreen

☐ one or two nice shirts for meetings with guests/hosts

☐ hiking/work boots ([men](http://www.dickssportinggoods.com/product/index.jsp?productId=16996916&cp=4406646.4413987.4417989.11690810), [women](http://www.cabelas.com/product/Footwear/Womens-Footwear/Womens-Hiking-Boots-Shoes%7C/pc/104797980/c/104790780/sc/104383980/Cabelas-Womens-Portia-Hikers/1395157.uts?destination=%2Fcatalog%2Fbrowse%2Ffootwear-womens-footwear-womens-hiking-boots-shoes%2F_%2FN-1101218%2FNs-MIN_SALE_PRICE%3FWTz_stype%3DGNU&WTz_l=Unknown%3Bcat104383980))

☐ toiletries

☐ hygiene products

**These items are HIGHLY recommended:**

☐ [“rite in the rain” notebook](http://www.riteintherain.com/category.asp?id=%7BF4FBD93A-C9A3-44ED-9ED2-886394E465D1%7D)

☐ pencils

☐ [waterproof boots](http://www.tractorsupply.com/-635607799)

☐ [wool socks](http://www.foxsox.com/catalog/product.aspx?type=subcategory&sortorder=stylenumber&code=HIKE&selectedstyle=2450)

☐ sunglasses (polarized lenses HIGHLY recommended)

☐ [legless camp chair](http://www.rei.com/product/783805/rei-trail-chair) – great for use on dry land or while canoeing/kayaking

☐ headlamp or flashlight (headlamps are nice since they leave your hands free)

**These items are also recommended:**

☐ sleeping bag ([casual camper](http://www.cabelas.com/product/Camping/Sleeping-Bags%7C/pc/104795280/c/104770080/Coleman-30-to-50-Sleeping-Bag/1362355.uts?destination=%2Fcatalog%2Fbrowse%2Fcamping-sleeping-bags%2F_%2FN-1100675%2FNs-MIN_SALE_PRICE%3FWTz_l%3DSBC%3BMMcat104795280%26WTz_sty) or [serious camper](http://www.cabelas.com/product/Camping/Sleeping-Bags%7C/pc/104795280/c/104770080/Suisse-Sport-McKinley-0-Sleeping-Bag/1348412.uts?destination=%2Fcatalog%2Fbrowse%2Fcamping-sleeping-bags%2F_%2FN-1100675%2FNs-MIN_SALE_PRICE%3FWTz_l%3DSBC%3BMMcat104795280%26))

☐ [sleeping pad](http://www.cabelas.com/product/Camping/Cots-Pads-Beds/Sleeping-Pads%7C/pc/104795280/c/104712480/sc/104484780/Therm-A-Rest174-RidgeRest174-SOLite174-Pad/1175104.uts?destination=%2Fcatalog%2Fbrowse%2Fcamping-cots-pads-beds-sleeping-pads%2F_%2FN-1100678%2FNs)

☐ camera (with extra batteries and memory card)

☐ [canvas duffle bag](http://www.specopstactical.com/olive-drab-load-canvas-duffle-standard-size-p-1791.html)

☐ [insect repellent](http://www.annbeesnaturals.com/BUZZ-Off-Insect-Repellent.html)

☐ [waterproof camera case](http://www.pelican-case.com/pelmiccas10.html) (these come in many different sizes, make sure you get one that fits your needs)

☐ musical instrument(s)

☐ bandana(s)

☐ fishing gear (with valid Indiana license)

☐ portable games – playing cards, dominoes, catch phrase, cribbage, etc.

☐ travel coffee cup

**You will definitely NOT need:**

☐ laundry detergent

☐ dishwashing supplies

☐ other cleaning supplies

☐ toilet paper

☐ dinnerware (plates, bowls, cups, mugs, etc)

☐ silverware

☐ cookware (pots, pans, mixing bowls, etc)

☐ cooking utensils

☐ kitchen cutlery

☐ kitchen appliances (toaster, blender, hand mixer, microwave, refrigerator, coffee maker)

☐ desk

☐ desk chair

☐ bed and mattress

☐ dresser

If you have any questions regarding this packing list, or any other aspects of life at Rieth Village, please do not hesitate to contact Tom Hartzell (tchartzell@goshen.edu; (260) 799-5869 x-126).

We hope to see you here soon!