How to Care For Your Hiking Gear!

**BOOTS**

- Check for scorpions
- Surface clean with light soap and water, avoid any harsh cleaners or perfumes
- Pull out the liners and throw them in the washing machine with socks or other tough items
- Use a stiff brush to clean out any inside debris and dirt
- Don’t leave boots to dry in the sun or over heaters, this can cause damage, cool dry places are the best
- Re-waterproof and touch-up any damage to the outside after they dry
BACKPACKS

- Open up all compartments and check for that flashlight you lost 3 years ago.

- A good shake upside-down will remove most large debris.

- If your backpack fits, a large washbasin is the easiest, otherwise a large brush and light soap will clean most materials used in backpacks.

- Apply silicone lubricant to zippers, as an added benefit it will repel water and help keep the contents dry.

- Check buckles and straps for cracks and frays that you can repair.
OUTERWEAR/SPORTSWEAR

- Consult the care tag on the inside of any garment before cleaning for specific temperature and hand-wash requirements.

- White vinegar can be used in place of detergents to clean most items.

- Avoid fabric softeners or detergents that contain heavy additives.

- Most tightly woven sportswear can be hung and air-dried. Outerwear can be laid on a dry towel until it dries.