First Day Hike Packing Checklist, Jan. 1, 2027

The National Park Service Ten Essentials, plus what to check on your state's page

TEN ESSENTIALS

- [ ] Navigation: map, compass and Global Positioning System (GPS)
- [ ] Sun protection: sunglasses, sunscreen and hat
- [ ] Extra clothing: jacket, hat, gloves, rain shell and other layers
- [ ] Illumination: flashlight and headlamp
- [ ] First-aid supplies: first aid kit
- [ ] Fire: matches or lighter and fire starters
- [ ] Repair kit and tools: duct tape, knife, multi-tool and scissors
- [ ] Nutrition: extra food
- [ ] Hydration: water and water treatment supplies
- [ ] Emergency shelter: tent, space blanket, tarp or bivy

BEFORE YOU GO

- [ ] Find your hike on your state park system's page and note the start time — Fri., Jan. 1
- [ ] Check the page for parking or entrance fees
- [ ] Minnesota: bring a vehicle permit (hikes are free, the park entry needs one)

Hike, start time and who is coming

Source: National Park Service, Ten Essentials (updated May 28, 2026); Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, First Day Hike. Start times and fees come from each state's page.