

What to buy

2016 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

18 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT

OUTDOOR PERSON

This region is one of the richest in the country when it comes to offering up diverse outdoors opportunities. There are rewarding experiences readily available for fishing, camping, boating, hunting, or hiking. The right gear is always at the top of the outdoors checklist to help enthusiasts fully enjoy these rewarding outdoors' experiences.

Whether they are fishing the Maumee River, hunting the marshes along Sandusky Bay, hiking in Oak Openings, or camping on the Lake Erie Islands, outdoors enthusiasts will appreciate great gifts that enhance the experience, and many of the best are available locally.

—MATT MARKEY, BLADE STAFF WRITER



Hunting knives
The demands on a hunting knife are many, including toughness, durability, versatility, and reliability. The Benchmade Saddle Mountain Hunter meets those expectations with its premium stainless steel blade that will stand up to even the most harsh environments. This American-made all-purpose knife holds a good edge and is an excellent choice for general hunting use. Other Benchmade knives available at Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's. **The Benchmade Saddle Mountain Hunter is \$123.25 from knifeart.com.**



Digital Scales
A very handy tool for any angler, the Rapala Digital Scale and Fish Gripper allows you to quickly weigh and release fish with one hand. It's made of rugged stainless steel to stand up in both freshwater and saltwater environments. The scale measures up to 50 pounds and has a large, easy-to-read display. The wrist lanyard keeps this valuable tool out of the drink. **\$54.99 at Dick's Sporting Goods.**



Archery equipment
The sport has exploded in popularity, so the selection in gear has grown as well. Outfit the bow hunter or competition archer on your list with the latest in bows, targets, sights, releases, rests, and custom-made arrows. There are also archery lessons and bow set-up and tuning in the full service pro shop. **\$300 and up for quality bows. Rock Solid Archery in downtown Haskins, Ohio.**



Sleeping bags
Camping is an enjoyable endeavor for the whole family and the most essential item inside the tent is a comfortable sleeping bag. There are models designed specifically for kids, those made for the milder seasons, and some intended for use on those chilly nights of spring and fall. Available in a variety of styles and colors, these sleeping bags have temperature ratings to let you know the intended comfort zone. **\$16.99 to \$74.99 at MC Sports.**

Women's insulated bibs
The Guide Series offers rugged outdoors garments built tough to withstand a variety of activities, including hunting, hiking, ice fishing, and camping. The Women's Outdoor Element Insulated Twill Bib has diamond-quilted insulation throughout, a full-length front zipper, and internal wind flap to help seal out the chilly air. Adjustable suspenders assure a comfortable fit, and the articulated knees offer increased freedom of movement. The pockets zip tight to secure your gear. **\$59.99 at Gander Mountain.**



Boating Protection
Give the boater on your Christmas list the same kind of protection most auto owners carry with a package of services available from the Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatUS). From the basic membership to trailer roadside assistance to on-the-water towing, boaters will appreciate this safety net. **\$24 to \$72 from BoatUS.com or at 800-395-2628.**



Headlamps
One of the most popular items in the outdoors accessory market in recent years is the headlamp, which provides light directly where the wearer is looking, and does so with hands-free operation. The Ledlenser line features powerful and lightweight headlamps, with some equipped with Smart Light Technology for switching quickly between high and low power. The patented technology on the SEO-7R model measures the light level in the user's surrounding area and automatically adjust the brightness. **\$24.99 to \$90 Cabela's.**

LED Camping Lantern
No more broken mantles, spilling fuel, or having the flame fight the wind when you add a bright battery-powered LED light to your campsite. The Clamplight Lantern from Blackfire takes versatile and convenient to the next level because it will attach to just about anything and the tilting head allows you to put the light where you need it. Perfect for camping, night fishing, backyard cookouts, or tight work spaces. **\$39.99 at Bass Pro Shops.**



Insulated beverage containers
Hot coffee in your tree stand three hours after sunrise? Absolutely, if your hunting companion is the Boulder style bottle from EcoVessel. It is triple-insulated to keep drinks hot for up to eight hours, or cold drinks for 36 hours. It has a leakproof top, a slim profile, and is made of rugged stainless steel. **\$28.95 at ecovessel.com.**



Fishing tackle kits
There's no better way for an angler to spend those dark days of winter than making preparations for the next fishing season. All of the necessary parts are included and there are many options, including French Spinner, Inline Spinner, and Soft Plastic Worm kits. **Helpful "How-To" videos are on the website. \$11.99 to \$24.95. Available at Jann's Netcraft on Briarfield Boulevard in Maumee and at jannsnecraft.com.**

* Prices and availability subject to change.

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