



Women's Adventure

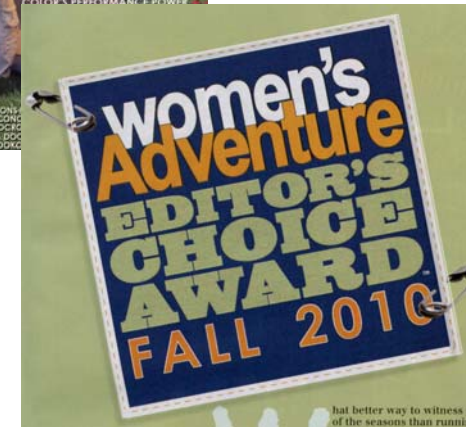
Fall 2010

Fall 2010 Editor's Choice Award: The Essentials

Featuring: The Ariel 75

Circulation: 115,000

Readership: 345,000



Is there a better way to witness the beauty of the seasons than running?



The Essentials

Thermarest Women's ProLite
(\$40; www.thermarest.com)
With extra padding where women need it (in the knees and back), this pad offers three-season sleeping comfort that weighs in at just one pound.

Sierra Designs Diamond Spring Women's 15
(\$200; www.sierradesigns.com)
Ergonomic sleeping, 1500lb gross down, and flex baffling offer a cozy night's sleep down to 15 degrees.

Princeton Tec Byte
(\$20; www.princetonac.com)
This tiny headlamp packs 30 lumens and 300 hours of burn time into a pocket-sized package that's so light, if it weren't so bright, you'd forget you were wearing it.

Bear Naked Cranberry Protein Trail Mix
(\$3; www.bearnaked.com)
Packs with protein, the trail-friendly snack blends crunchy granola clusters with sweet cranberries, raisins, and omega-rich almonds and walnuts.

Mountain Adventure 114

★★★★★
PACK-A-MUNDO

Osprey Ariel 75 (\$280; www.ospreypacks.com)
Space for 60-plus pounds of gear, but this pack's airy suspension system and molded hip belt ensure a perfect fit and a reduction in sweaty discomfort.

TESTED: Have a sister brand? Read more about our editor's picks online at www.osprey.com or www.osprey.com

TESTED: BACKPACKS	TESTED: TENTS
<p>Gregory Jade 60 (\$220; www.gregorypacks.com) Perfect for weekend trips but also functional for long day hikes, the Gregory Jade 60 has enough room (2,600 cubic inches) to fit sleeping bags, camp kitchen, and enough clothes for a late fall trek. To keep you cool without sacrificing support, the mesh top allows for three different sizes and Gregory's InTrek™ 1.5 Suspension moves the pack away from the center of your back for superior ventilation. The pack has enough but doesn't prevent movement or hinder a 170-lb hiker from leaning over a hiking stick without getting off balance. Though it weighs less than four pounds, the pack comfortably carries up to 45 pounds and features front and top loading for easy access. Its 10 internal, zip-accessible pockets hold everything from keys and cell phones to keys, lenses, and climbing gear. Ideal for trekking, with water-resistant zippers and double reinforced ripstop mesh fabric.</p>	<p>Nemo Esprit 2P (\$200; www.nemoequipment.com) This lightweight tent earns its three-season claim: it's light for four-season backpacking, but its lightweight and airy enough to pack along for warm-weather nights, too. The Esprit 2P confirms Nemo's spot among innovative tent makers with its hybrid construction that allows for a smaller, lighter fly that ventilates well, but adjusts to top protection. It's also easy to attach—one zipper instead of 20 seconds during an unexpected mid-night shower. The interior mesh fly is wide enough for tent, and it's tall enough inside (60 inches) that even tall hikers were able to comfortably change shirts and nicely avoid dumping the contents of the gear bag (ouch!). The tent comes with headlight poles and with two modular/attachable vestibules that allow you to customize for expected conditions. Got favorite features? The accessories: standard bugzits aren't the end of it. Nemo's got add-ons such as an interior tent, a headlamp-reflecting orange bungee, and a tenting pole vestibule that neatly doubles the under-camp storage space of your tent.</p>
<p>Osprey Ariel 75 (\$280; www.ospreypacks.com) Space for 60-plus pounds of gear, but this pack's airy suspension system and molded hip belt ensure a perfect fit and a reduction in sweaty discomfort.</p> <p>Kelly Lakota 4000 (\$140; www.billy.com) With 14 internal pockets, enough side and top pockets, and a pack that catches light for day-traveler visibility with lanterns adding to lantern light.</p> <p>Mountain Hardware Nulu 60 (\$200; www.mountainhardware.com) The 60-liter pack is lightweight but also light and holds well without adding to a full weekend's weight and bulk for late-season weekend hiking.</p> <p>Douglas ACT Lite 60 + 10 SL (\$185; www.douglas.com) A classic 60-liter pack with 10-liter top pack that's well-suited for late-season weekend hiking. Fit is easily adjustable, too.</p>	<p>REI Half Dome 2 PLUS (\$199; www.rei.com) A lightweight nylon tent, but this option is a tent and tent stakes, with light and spacious protection from wind and weather.</p> <p>Big Agnes Fly Creek UL2 (\$350; www.bigagnes.com) Lightweight and airy, this tent is a great choice for those who want light in packability, but with traditional backpacking tent for comfort.</p> <p>Sierra Designs L1 Strike-2 (\$300; www.sierradesigns.com) A classic tent with a modular vestibule that allows you to customize for expected conditions. Got favorite features? The accessories: standard bugzits aren't the end of it. Nemo's got add-ons such as an interior tent, a headlamp-reflecting orange bungee, and a tenting pole vestibule that neatly doubles the under-camp storage space of your tent.</p> <p>Exped Arnes Mesh (\$119; www.exped.com) A lightweight tent with a modular vestibule. A tent that's easy to pack and set up, but sturdy in high-wind conditions, but excellent for tent and high humidity.</p>

