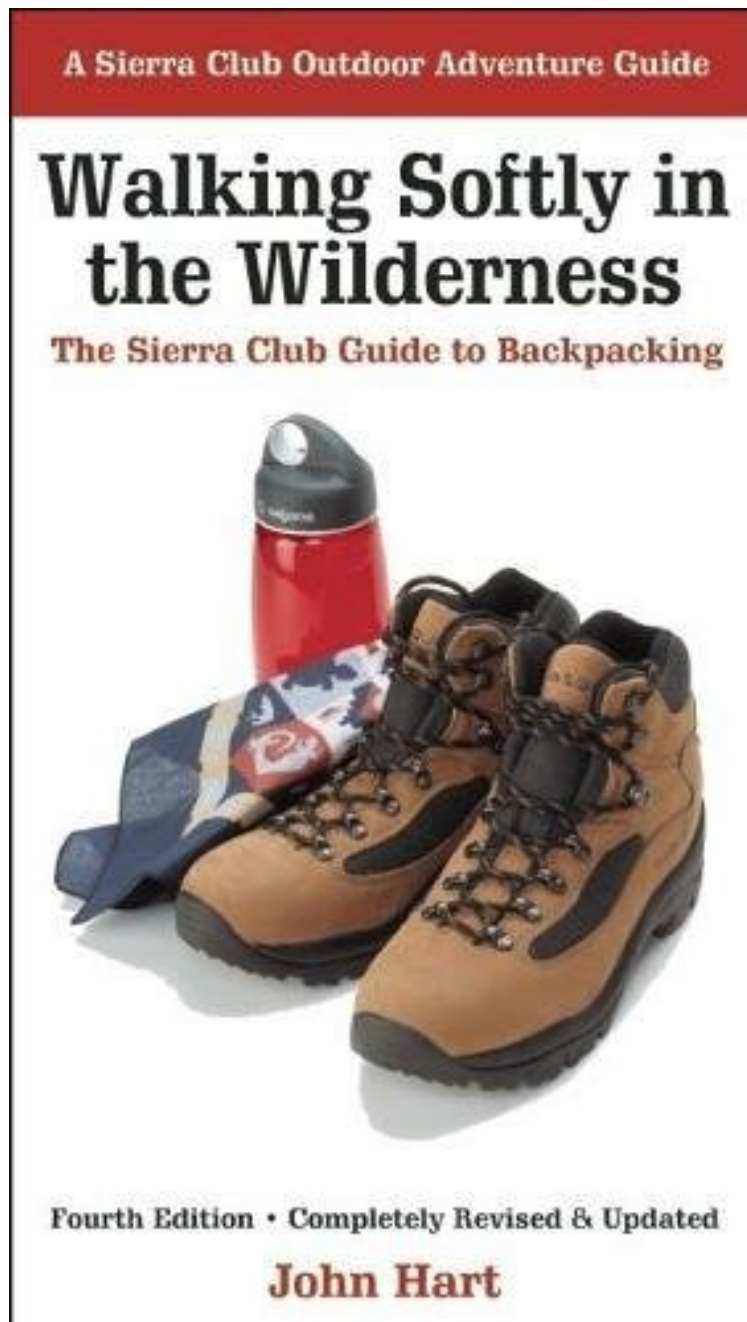


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# Walking Softly in the Wilderness: The Sierra Club Guide to Backpacking (Sierra Club Outdoor Adventure Guide)

*John Hart*

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**John Hart : Walking Softly in the Wilderness: The Sierra Club Guide to Backpacking (Sierra Club Outdoor Adventure Guide)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walking Softly in the Wilderness: The Sierra Club Guide to Backpacking (Sierra Club Outdoor Adventure Guide):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Deep down inside still continues to be a good book to line yourself with the outdoors. By AWOL Bought this book back in the eighties. Some information has changed. Materials, construction, equipment etc. Deep down inside still continues to be a good book to line yourself with the outdoors. I recommend it to anyone that wants to get straight nonsensical information on the outdoors. There are so many books these days that are like gospel and if you don't follow the authors opinion you are condemned to eternal damnation. This book is not one of those, is just fact filled with options and encourages you to look further for more specialized information if needed. 17 of 23 people found the following review helpful. Lots of detail but little substance. By A Customer The original edition of this book was published in 1977 and it and the succeeding editions are sponsored by the Sierra Club. If you are a supporter of the eco values of the Sierra Club, that is reason enough to buy the book and you will be completely in sync with the authors basic proposition that we should care for the backpacking environment. I agreed with that thought in the first edition and still agree with it all these years later in this edition. Having said that, I do not value this book highly and do not recommend it to anyone, specifically not to novice backpackers. Here is the problem; the book expends the vast majority of its pages in the detailed listing of the component parts of gear such as packs, boots or tents and spends almost no time in telling you how to utilize the gear efficiently. The very essence of backpacking is doing. Putting the pack on and going. This book goes to great lengths to itemize the various straps on a backpack but really glosses over the where and how to use it and all the other gear associated with backpacking. In other words, it definitely is not a "how to" book. For that, I recommend "The Backpacker's Handbook" by Chris Townsend. 10 of 43 people found the following review helpful. Political Correctness carried to extremes. By A Customer This book expounds endlessly on how best to limit the impact of people on the backcountry in the very best traditions of the Sierra Club. It's more of a philosophy book than a "how to" book. If anyone wants to learn how to backpack and/or camp, he would be better advised to buy the several books by Karen Berger and Chris Townsend, in particular The Backpackers Handbook.

The ultimate manual for wilderness travelers and campers, *Walking Softly in the Wilderness* is the groundbreaking guide that first taught backpackers how to enjoy a genuine wilderness experience that leaves nature undisturbed. In recent years backpacking gear and practices have undergone many changes, and all are noted and expertly evaluated by author John Hart in this new edition. Covering the latest in "ultralight" gear choices, as well as downloadable maps, portable GPS devices, and the world of online information, Hart is a sure-footed guide to this changing scene. The qualities that established this guide as the bible of camp and trail have also been polished and honed: its level-headed advice on trip planning and packing; insights for getting the most from a wilderness trip, whether a challenging mountain scramble or a leisurely family outing; and wisdom about dealing with the unexpected, from bears to flash floods to injuries. Seventy line drawings illustrate topics ranging from bear-bagging to rigging a tarp shelter. Extensive resource listings include wilderness agencies, gear suppliers, and online information sources.

.com Along with a compass and camp stove, warm hat and sleeping bag, every hiker should consider this book a prize piece of gear. Whether you're new to the sport, an old hand considering the purchase of a new tent or backpack, or interested in trying a new variation like snow or desert camping, *Walking Softly in the Wilderness* is a good place to start. Author John Hart is a conservationist, poet, backpacker, and climber, with years of experience in the backcountry. Hart offers important details on boots, sleeping bags, tents and shelters, kitchen gear, trip planning, food, fuel, making and breaking camp, first aid, safety, problem animals and plants, map reading and compasses, navigating off trail, sanitation and clean water, and camping with kids. Especially helpful when facing a major purchase such as a sleeping bag or tent, the book offers useful background and lays out all the choices without brand names to confuse or persuade you, so you can make a more reliable decision. The book also includes useful resource listings of conservation and wilderness travel organizations, map and equipment sources, land management agencies in the U.S. and Canada, as well as Internet contacts. --Kathryn True "Crowded with information on gearing up, food and fuel, finding your way, making and breaking camp.... A commonsense and literate approach."--"Los Angeles Times "For the most complete overall picture of what genuine wilderness camping entails, the Sierra Club's "Walking Softly "in the Wilderness is the ultimate manual."--"Houston Chronicle About the Author John Hart is the author of *Hiking the Great Basin* and *Storm Over Mono: The Mono Lake Battle and the California Water Future*. He lives in Sonoma County, California.