

# backwoods



LAYERS

summer vs. winter

SWITCH IT UP

color fashion

Q&A

hitting the trail in style

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#inwiththeout

# letter from the editor

To Our Readers,

We are so excited to present our first issue of “backwoods” outdoor fashion magazine. The inspiration behind this publication comes from our love of the outdoors. We will provide interesting reads from valleys to mountain tops and trends from head to toe. There are many different ways to express ourselves through fashion, but there is nothing better than being able to do it while going on adventures in the great outdoors.

Our goal is to provide a fun read that also promotes a space for learning and keeping up with current trends. We hope that this magazine will inspire the joy of the outdoors and encourage our readers to explore the beautiful world around us. Whether you are a seasoned climber or trying or looking for your first trail, you are in the right place.



Go out and enjoy the great outdoors, take some pictures, and look good while you are doing it! We look forward to hearing back from our readers. Send us stories, pictures, questions and anything else you would like to share. We would love to hear where the trail takes you. Don't forget to subscribe to our quarterly subscription. We have so many great articles coming up that you will not want to miss!

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

From the creators of “backwoods”, Sydney Scott, Jacob Borg, Jakob Holtorf, & Sherri Jo Gallagher



*SS*



*JB*



*JG*



*J. Holtorf*

# battle of the boots

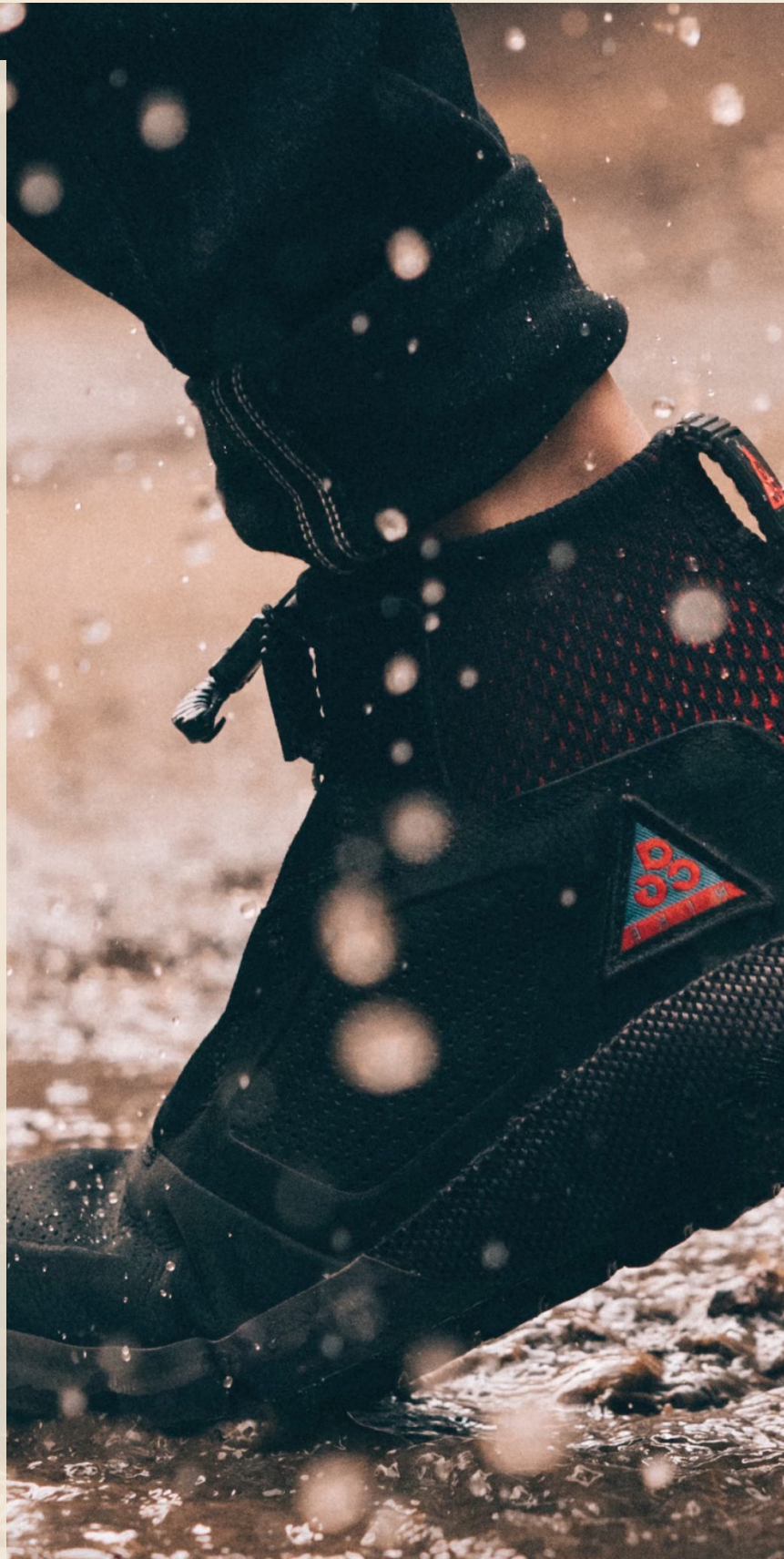
Boots are the human's tires. Thus, we need good boots to get us places. What constitutes a "good boot" though? There are many things to consider. Comfort of course, stability, and durability are the most important categories to look at when determining a boot's quality.

Boots serve many purposes, work being one of the biggest. Caterpillar (CAT) makes one of the most recommended work boots for safety and comfort: the Alaska 2.0 Steel Toe Boot. These boots are designed for maximum comfort and safety for life in the workplace where heavy machine and resources are on the move.

"Why should I wear work boots?"

Work boots protect the wearer's feet from potentially maiming hazards and injuries. The sturdy, steel toe protect the toes from objects crushing or puncturing them. The boots' stability also protects the wearer from rolling their ankles and from sharp objects like rocks, glass, and nails.

When hiking, having a boot with proper support, comfort, and durability is crucial for safety and success. The Salomon Quest 4 Gore-Tex



Hiking boots meet these necessities. The boots do a good job of keeping the hiker's feet dry and also breathing. However, the Salomons are a bit expensive, but there are other options out there for the amateur hiker. Merrell Moab 2 Mid Waterproof hiking boots are good for the general, not-extreme hike. For the average person, these boots will get you through the hike.

**H**iking boots help protect the foot and ankle while hiking. Hiking boots are specifically designed to protect the wearer from rolling their ankle, from sharp rocks, and to prevent slipping.

**W**hen discussing boots, you have to mention the famed snow boot. Snow boots are essential when braving the frozen tundra. For snow boots, they must provide two things: warmth and stability; every other feature is secondary. A good boot that provides warmth and support is the North Face Snowfuse Boots.

*"Why should I wear snow boots?"*

**F**ailure to properly protect one's feet while in the snow can result in permanent injury to the feet and can even lead to amputation.

**B**oots are also good for fashion. There are a few classic favorites when it comes to boots for general wear. Dr. Martins are a classic boot in fashion. The boots are stylish, long lasting, and

timeless. They have everything from pull-on to lace-up. Another classic boot, although a style not a brand, is the cowboy or western boot. These boots always bring a bold statement with their distinct sound and shape.

*"Why should I wear a boot for fashion?"*

**B**oots while being stylish, still provide many of the benefits of a work or hiking boot. They are more durable than sneakers and will last longer. However, many boots for style do require a little maintenance, such as polishing.

Grab your boots and let's go. There is a whole world to explore.



Written By Jacob Borg

# the sock drawer

Socks. A knitted, international, cloth tradition that dates back to the eighth century BC. The earliest archeological example of socks were discovered in Egypt along the Nile River. Socks have come a long way from the hand knit nåalbinding strictly for the elite, to a machine made product that even the poorest people can obtain.

Socks today have many specialties, from dress, to casual, to hiking, to extreme weather. There is a sock for every occasion, person, and budget. The best socks for the occasion, are not always the most expensive pair. While for some activities a more expensive pair may be needed, you can almost always keep the cost down while maximizing comfort and quality.

I have evaluated several pairs by comfort and functionality for running, cycling, volleyball, and general everyday wearing. Of the socks I have tried, there is one clear front runner: the Adidas Superlite Stripe Low-Cut. These socks are comfortable for walking and running, provide ample cushion, and do not slide down during activity. The Superlites are excellent and of all the low-cut socks I tried, these were the only not to slide down during volleyball or running. These socks are also very reasonably priced and Adidas has men's sizes 5-15 for them.



Socks of course can also be fun, not just functional. While finding fun socks for sports can be challenging, fun socks with wacky patterns and characters for every day use can be found anywhere, but there are a few favorites. Unsimply Stitched has a great sock subscription and socks for everyday wearing and for athletic use. The socks are always fun and are reasonably priced, especially considering their high quality of stitching and creativity. Unsimply Stitched socks let you express your personality in a fun way while still being professional, if need be.

Sock preferences are going to be different person-to-person and based on the individual's style and needs, but these are just recommendations to get you started in your sock finding adventure. Go forth and express your style, with socks!

Written By Jacob Borg

# KIIVI

EMBRACE THE **PULL** OF NATURE





summer



A woman is sitting on a gravel trail, looking towards the right. She is wearing a bright orange knit beanie, a yellow ribbed turtleneck sweater, and olive green leggings. She has a grey and orange backpack on her back. The background shows a dirt path leading through a dry, hilly landscape towards snow-capped mountains under a clear blue sky.

# layers summer vs. winter

Seasons change, weather comes and goes, leaves fall and sprout, and styles change. Summer is full of sunshine, warm weather, rain, and hiking. Layers are light and comfortable. Shorts are now in, and rain jackets become an essential when hiking. Colors are bright and earthy, leaving space for you and your own style. Summer ends and all transitions us into Winter. Winter is full of cold days, bright fluffy white snow, and winter sports. Layers are big and warm. Focus is now solely on keeping yourself warm, making sure your toes don't fall off and your ears don't freeze. Colors are more muted and neutral, but winter sports bring person style in. Combinations of pants, jackets, helmets, and goggles become part of people's identity Each season brings a whole new wardrobe and with it, new styles.

Growing up, summer was always everyone's favorite season. Whether it was summer break, vacation, or just the warmer weather, there are a lot of fun outdoor activities to take part in. The most popular being hiking. The joy of getting outdoors, walking in nature, and enjoying the beauty of our planet is one of the best ways to spend a summer day. When it comes to hiking, you also need to make sure that you are prepared for all conditions and look great while doing it. Hiking in the summer means planning for hot, sunny days, bugs and ticks, afternoon storms, and some chilly nights. When preparing your summer fit, make sure to be aware of material, comfortability, layers, and extra accessories to pull it all together. Opting for materials optimized for temperature and moisture wicking will keep you cool on your hike and prevent bacteria.

essential for hiking, but hike-specific footwear may not be necessary." (Cortez, 2021) Depending on your desired trail, more hike specific shoes may benefit you. Summer

brings a lot of moisture, which means wet grass and slippery rocks. Choosing a comfortable shoe with more traction will be your best bet. Layers are sometimes neglected in the summertime, but weather is unpredictable, so it is best to prepare ahead of time and wear some extra layers. Shorts are super popular in the summer and are great as long as you have an extra jacket, some warm socks, and a rain jacket to keep you dry. Ultimately, summer allows a lot of flexibility and room to express your own style. Summer colors are always brighter, just like the season, so be yourself!

**W**inter! Time to pack away your summer gear and bundle up. Prepare for cold feet, wind chill, and lots and lots of snow. Winter is one of my favorite seasons, solely because of the activities. Skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, sledding, and building

the largest snow fort in your front yard. Obviously, snow is subjective to the area you live in, however cold temperatures are common in most states. With cold temperatures brings layers! Lots and lots of layers! Layers allow for more stylized and complex outfits while giving you that extra warmth you need. Base layers are one of the most important pieces in winter. This is because whenever your work up a sweat while hiking, snowboarding, etc., your body will warm up and the base layers keep this heat trapped. However, "when that sweat cools off from the cold weather, you'll get super cold if you don't have base layers to help soak up the dampness." (Kara, 2021) Casual shoes in the winter are a no go and you will most definitely want to find a nice, insulated, and waterproof pair of boots to keep your toes from falling off. A mid-layer is also a great idea to add the extra piece of warmth. A warm



fleece jacket is the perfect mid-layer and is always easily removed if you get a little too warm! Your outer layer needs to be a winter jacket or coat. If you like the style, big puffy jackets offer a lot of insulation to keep you warm while hiking. If you have a heavy-duty coat to keep you cozy when you're outside, you will be a much happier person! Extra accessories to spice up your outfit and give you some extra warmth include cozy socks, beanies, gloves, and snow goggles! These all allow for your own unique spin and so many different style and color combinations. One of my favorite parts about snowboarding is going to the mountain towns and see all the variety in styles and outfits that people have! From full camo jumpsuits to bright fluorescent pink jackets, to standard black and white combinations, winter brings it all!

With each season, variety in what you should wear definitely shifts, but your style can transfer from season to season! Make sure you check the weather ahead of time and have your outdoor arsenal of gear ready to go! Remember to prepare. You never know what mother nature will throw at you and it is always best to make sure you're prepared ahead of time. Get comfortable, remember the necessary, and add whatever accessories you want! There is no set item or specific piece that you must wear, so have fun and make it yours!

Written by Jakob Holtorf

# switch it up color fashion

Color plays an essential role in our day-to-day lives. Color theory, the way certain hues make us feel, will always play a part in our routines. Experimenting with color is a risk worth taking, and like most things, color doesn't have a one-size-fits-all approach. Color-related emotions are dependent on personal preferences and people's past experiences with that color.

After the pandemic, everyone began embracing the outdoors. Finding your niche color scheme for each season is crucial for curating the year-round outdoor aesthetic. Color combinations for each season are significant because they can help you make a good impression on those around you. All trends are born on the runway but don't fully come alive until taken to the streets, or woods for say.

Fall is when we take advantage of the beautiful colors of the changing trees, leaning into the warmer color schemes. Colors typically in autumn color palettes are primarily warm-toned. Although, if you look at most color palettes themselves, you will notice that most are not situated at the warmest end of the scale. Normally,

"Each person has their connotation with each season, and their color palette will resemble how they feel."

all autumn colors contain yellow undertones instead of blue. Such as oranges, yellows, browns, greens, blues, and reds. But not just those colors pure forms, diving into the burnt oranges, deeper yellows, chocolate or light browns, sage or forest greens, navy blues to contrast the orange, and deep reds. A light brown or caramel color is the ideal transitional shade to segway into autumn when deeper hues take the reins. An



earthy brown color is often related to notions of support and reliability. When transitioning from summer, pairing these browns with blues and greens - signifying earth and water - a brown hue can help you stay grounded. When anticipating fall, staple clothing like hiking pants, jackets, sweaters, vests and jeans is important. Layering will be your best friend so in fall getting those staple pieces in the colors you reach most for is best, or ones that will blend well with all of your other clothing. Looking at the colors of fall and picking your favorite colors of the many when shopping for staples will help you gather clothing that you will wear and be drawn to.

Typically warm and deeper color pallets are commonly used to represent the season of winter. These colors include chocolate/cocoa brown, burgundy, olive/forest green, burnt orange, deep blue, charcoal and crimson. The deeper olive color is a nice incorporation of green that isn't too vibrant or too brown. Burgundy is a classic winter color that is a timeless shade that goes everywhere nicely. In a more neutral color outfit, burgundy is a great

pop of color that isn't too harsh for winter. Forrest green is a lush deep green that blends nicely with the other deep shades used in winter. It is another perfect color to add a pop of color to outfits in fun ways such as hats and coats. Crimson and mahogany are the perfect reds to embrace the holiday season in winter and their deep contrast with the outdoor conditions. These warm colors are super wintery vibes of sitting by a fireplace or being in a cabin, achieving the snowy season aesthetic. A classic winter white is a staple in the colder season to pair with every color or use as a base. Deep blues such as navy give you that cozy but elegant vibe. All different kinds of muted blues in winter help accentuate the cooler



season. Coca and chocolate brown will instantly make you think of hot cocoa with marshmallows after a cool day outside.



Need I say more about brown? Bundling up in the winter is the bottom line of practicality in winter, so piecing together outfits that have lots of layers have a cohesive color pallet will help you achieve your perfect winter outfits.

Sunnier days are on the horizon. Spring comes with a fresh perspective or a strong desire to start something new. The color schemes symbolize excitement, taking a fearless approach to the colors and bold attitudes, Encouraging experimentation and quirky contrasts. Outside, spring brings a beautiful mix of the dry earthy tones of winter with new pops of life or color in hidden places. Going from ultra-calm tones to bright expressive combinations. In the early moments of spring ground, your outfits with muted earthy colors then add a pop of color, such as blue or green to add some personality to the outfit. There is a basic color scheme





tied to this season's color story, but there is an uplifting sense of play that comes through. These basic colors are often known as pastel blues, yellows, pinks, and greens. Using these basic colors of spring paired with either brighter versions or super contrasting colors will help you transition from winter to the crazy colors of Summer. Once the season has come into full effect and spring break had arrived we use vibrant, saturated hues of tropical color palettes to counteract the drought of color in winter.

Summer, often, is filled with colors that are linked to feelings of joy. The color palettes in summer often have nothing to do with the hot weather. The use of many colors and vibrancy is critical in summer fashion. Having at least one item of clothing in each outfit that is a fun color is how you will be able to achieve the joyful summer aesthetic. The easiest way to form a color palette in summer is to wear several tones of one color together rather than pairing two contrasting colors. Such as pairing a powder blue with a deep indigo blue. The challenge in summer is to find ways to add more colors rather than creating high contrast that is overpowering. Pairing a vibrant pink, green, purple, red, etc. with one of the neutrals or softer colors from other seasons will create a fun look that's not too crazy. This season is also great for fun prints that add more spice to an outfit. Summer color schemes are greatly influenced by how you spend your summer. If your summer is more relaxed, gravitating towards light blue, white, sage green, pinks, and other softer colors can curate the calm aesthetic. A thrilling summer filled with lots of adventure will come with lots of colors, adding in the colors that bring out the nature around you or native to the area helps you stay connected to the traveling aesthetic.

Written by Sydney Scott



# small town styles

There is a certain piece of outdoor clothing that when recognized, people know exactly what small mountain town in Colorado it was purchased from. It is easily recognized by the outdoor community and is apparent in every die-hard, mountain adventurer's arsenal. It is created and sold only in the small mountain town of Leadville, located in the middle of the Rocky Mountains by a company named Melanzana. Located in the middle of downtown Leadville, Melanzana has been doing it differently for the past 20 years. They are a proud, locally owned clothing company that designs, creates, and sells everything all in the same building. They have created this culture around their clothing that pushes for excellence but also strives to be unique and hold to the roots of where they came from and what inspires their designs.

With just over 20 employees, Melanzana makes outdoor clothing suited for any season, unexpected, and unforgiving weather. Their highlight item and most popular is their Micro Grid Hoodie. It is a fleece mid-layer "re-imagined for a better fit and planet." The hoodie included a unique hood and pocket that provides you with everything you need. The demand for this item is insane. To purchase this item, you must buy it from the store in Leadville. You might be thinking, well that's not the craziest thing I've heard. You're right, it gets crazier. You must schedule an appointment in order to purchase anything from their store. Speaking from personal experience, I was able to visit the great town of Leadville this summer during one of my camping trips. Knowing this shop was here, we had to go see for ourselves what they hype was all about. After stepping into the store, we were very quickly notified that if we didn't have an appointment, we were not able to buy anything today. Also, the clothing section was roped off! We couldn't even walk around and look!

Regardless of the insanity of that moment, Melanzana is doing it right. They have created a product and planted their roots in their small mountain town. The product clearly speaks for itself and is now widely known by the outdoor community as an essential piece in their closet. Melanzana is a perfect example of

"Melanzana is a perfect example of small-town fashion"

small-town fashion and how its impact can be expanded into the whole industry. They are a landmark in downtown Leadville and are a must-see if you ever find yourself in the area.



Written by Jakob Holtorf



**salomon**



# hitting the trail in style

## Who are you and what do you do?

My name is Rosemarie Coulthard. I am a retired Orthopedic Certified Technician (1977-1996) and retired Sales Specialist from REI (2015-2020). I worked in the Clothing, Footwear, Camping/Backpacking departments.

## What is your experience with hiking/fashion?

I have been an avid day hiker for over 40 years I have backpacked sections of the John Muir Trail, High Sierra Trail and Pacific Crest Trail along with many other areas of the Sierra National Forest and Wilderness areas. During my time as a REI Sales Specialist we were always receiving training along with updates from sales representatives on the ever-changing styles & materials used in outdoor travel, running and casual wear (this included footwear of all types). All of this included base layers, underwear, jackets, pants & socks.

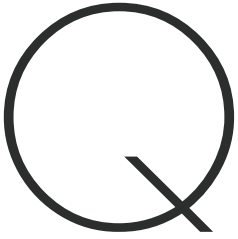
## Do you have different gear for different trails?

I would say yes and no. For an easy short hike, you may prefer a trail running shoe or low hiking type boot along with a smaller daypack (make sure you have room for water & snacks). A hike with more ups, downs and rougher trails, plus longer mileage, you should hike in what you prefer. Something like a running shoe or a low or high-top hiking boot along with a larger daypack to carry more water and snacks.

## On a budget, what hiking gear would you prioritize?

Number one on this list is BOOTS/SHOES & SOCKS. Not all brands fit the same so most importantly – have your foot measured for size. Your everyday shoe size is not going to be your hiking boot/shoe size. Also, our feet change over the years, so you may be wider or longer than in the past. It also important to try on footwear with the sock you will be wearing and also better to shop for hiking footwear later in the day so as to better know how they will feel after several hours of hiking. You also need to consider if you are just day hiking with a light pack or backpacking with a heavier pack.

Number two is your day pack. An average daypack will be 8-10 pounds as you will be carrying, water, snacks, small first aid kit, extra layers etc. This said you want something that doesn't put the load on your shoulders, so try on different packs and see if they will let you put some weight in it to see how it feels.



### **Is it more important to dress for style or comfort?**

I feel that being comfortable is the most important thing. If you are not comfortable in what you are wearing, hiking or traveling your adventure will not be the best. Style ranks second. Now days, so many of the hiking clothing has a little more style and can cross over from trail to town without looking like you just came off the trail. The most common complaint was, “these pants are not flattering”, but what may be flattering may not be comfortable when hiking. Hiking tights are another good option as they have improved over the years. I have hiking tights and pants that I am comfortable in all day on the trail or in town.



### **What would you say to someone new to hiking?**

1) Start with easy hikes. Clothing wise, see what you may have in your closet that may work for you as you decide what type of hiking you will be doing. You want to wear synthetic clothing as cotton does not wick and stay wet. As far as gear is concerned, if you have a sporting shop that has rentals (packs, tents, pads, stoves & sleeping bags) start there if you think you are going to get into backpacking. REI does have a rental department. Find a local hiking group and go on some of their hikes. It's a great way to find out about different trails and even what type of hiker you are or want to hike with. Are they a “get there and back type or stop and take pictures & enjoy the area” type. Many times you will find others that like to hike like you and you can hike together outside of the group.





**NEVER STOP EXPLORING.**

