Pack your bag with the heaviest items in the middle of the bag.

Backpacking Equipment Checklist
Backpack - minimum 45L for 3 days, 65L for 3-5 days and larger for longer trips
Tent or Hammock
2 tarps - 1 for under tent, 1 for over. If using a hammock you will only need 1 tarp
Hiking poles
Cooking and eating utensils
Plate, bowl, cup
Cooking pots/pans
Stove & Fuel
Sleeping bag (and insert if sleeping bag isn't 3 season)
Sleeping pad (or yoga mat). Some sleeping pads can serve as a seat, also.
Food - packed in bear proof smell bags
Axe
Knife
Light; headlamp or lantern. Solar powered is best.
Solar powered charger for phone
Bear proof smell bags - bring extra just in case
Paracord or rope x2 - 1 for clothes line (15 feet) 1 for hanging food (25 ft)
Carabiners - to attach food bag to rope
Shovel - for bio breaks
Bear bell and/or bear spray. Pepper spray could work, also.
First aid kit
Sunscreen
Bug spray
Bug net for head
Hiking boots/shoes
Sandals or flip flops for at camp
Clothes - 1 long sleeve, 1 short sleeve, 1 extra pant, underwear, socks(bring at least 1 extra pair), pajamas, swim suit
Jacket and/or hoodie for cool days/nights
Rain gear (poncho or jacket)
Dry bags - 1 for food, 1 for clothes, 1 for phone
Biodegradable soap for washing
Biodegradable soap for dishes
Biodegradable wipes (good for many things)
Whistle (Fox 40 recommended)
Flint or fire starter (cotton balls dipped in vaseline)
Lighter (to light stove and fire)
Water filter (Lifestraw and/or gravity water filter)
Towels - hand, face, body. Recommend microfibre for quick dry and light weight