

TROOP 212 Catalina Backpack, May 2017

As you know, we are planning our May 20th and 21st overnight backpack trip on Catalina Island. These dates are quickly approaching. We have locked in our numbers with Catalina Express (boat) and Catalina Conservancy (camp site reservations) based on deposits and final payments received. This letter is a review of the itinerary, and other useful information that will ensure a safe and fun trip.

The trip DEPARTURE will be VERY EARLY on Saturday, May 20 FROM THE SAN PEDRO DOCK and return to the same dock on Sunday evening, May 21 at approximately 7:30 PM. Those of you prone to getting sea sick are encouraged to take appropriate medical preparation steps. Also, carpooling is encouraged for the Catalina Express parking lot. Parking fees are not included in the cost of the trip.

The Troop will provide meals for Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast. Scouts are responsible for their own hike appropriate lunches on Saturday and Sunday, as well as some spending money for snacks or supper when we are waiting in Two Harbors, for the return boat.

All troop participants will depart on the same boat, and return on the same boat as well. All troop participants MUST be at the Catalina Express San Pedro landing on Saturday morning at 7am FOR CHECK IN. The boat departs at 8am. THERE IS NO SECOND CHANCE IF YOU MISS THIS BOAT.

For the hiking elements, we will be split into two groups. An advanced group WILL DEPART THE BOAT AT AVALON, and an intermediate group WILL DEPART THE BOAT AT TWO HARBORS. The advanced group will hike from Avalon to Blackjack campground on Saturday. This is approximately a 15 mile hike. Sunday morning this group will get an early start and hike approximately 12.5 miles to Two Harbors.

Once the Catalina Express drops off the advanced group on Saturday morning it will continue to Two Harbors with the intermediate group. This group will get off the boat in Two Harbors and hike 6 miles to Little Harbor where they will camp overnight. On Sunday morning they will hike 6 miles back to Two Harbors.

Both groups will depart Two Harbors on Sunday at 6:15pm and return to the San Pedro Port at approximately 7:30pm.

While we recommend a scout's backpack weigh less than 25% of their weight, be advised that Catalina Express will not allow any backpacks (or other gear) that weighs over 50 pounds.

If you need to borrow a troop 212 backpack for this trip, they will be available during the Monday Troop meeting, May 15th. Our fully packed bag check, and gear distribution, will be at the same meeting hall on Thursday, May 18th.

Thanks,

John Douglas, Scoutmaster@troop212.net