

BSA TROOP 212

COLORADO RIVER CANOE TRIP

DECEMBER 2009

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BSA TROOP 212, COLORADO RIVER CANOE TRIP, DECEMBER 2009

As you know, the Troop will canoe the Colorado River this December during the school break. Properly qualified Scouts and Scouters of our troop, past and present Troop members, are welcome to take part in this river adventure. This

year we will follow a section of The Colorado River from the base of Hoover Dam to Cotton Cove. This special booklet is being prepared to answer the most commonly asked questions we receive and should be used as a planning and preparation guide. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Trip Leader, Scoutmaster John Douglas 310-628-4312(c).

QUALIFICATIONS TO GO ?

Anyone who is a BSA registered Scouter or Scout with Troop 212 may come along. Registered Alumni of the Troop are also encouraged to participate. In addition, we require each and every participant to have as a minimum, pass the Summer Camp level swimming requirement, or the equivalent, as approved by the Trip Leader, in addition to attending at least 3 out of 4 canoe practice sessions in Long Beach. (See Program Calendar for dates) In fact, we would prefer that all River trip participants attend all 4 practice sessions, if possible, in the interest of safety. Also for the safety of all participants, we reserve the right to administer our own swim test prior to trip confirmation.

WEATHER ?

December days at about 65 degrees, can be changeable, but the most comfortable for canoeing. Wetsuits are not needed and are not advised. It's a bit cooler at night, about 35 degrees. Due to the radical weather changes in that part of the country, please plan for some rain on this river trip.

IS IT SAFE ?

White water is at a minimum on this river adventure, although the river can be quite swift and challenging in several places. Don't worry, we'll show you how to stay safe. For the record, we expect not to exceed class II water for most of the way, which is considered MODERATE: larger waves but no obstacles or obstructions, some splashing. (Great fun!)

COSTS, RESERVATIONS, AND CANCELLATIONS ?

All FINAL monies, Troop 212 Parent Permission Forms and Jerkwater Canoe Form(copies in this Booklet) must be submitted/collected no later than the Monday, December 7th, Troop Meeting. The estimated cost of this adventure will be \$195.00 per person to cover the cost of food, transportation, souvenir patches, camp fees, vehicle parking fees, as well as rentals of canoes, paddles, and life jackets. We believe this to be a reliable estimate, and we will do everything possible to hold at this cost level. Any changes to the final price will be determined later based on the actual number of participants and any volume discounts we are able to secure.

Reservations payment should be made as soon as possible to assure that we will have a place for you. Of course you may choose to pay the full amount at any time. However, please remember that all final monies and parental release forms must be collected by the December 7th Meeting. All checks should be payable to "BSA Troop 212". Sorry, but any bounced checks will be treated as an automatic cancellation.

DEPARTURE & RETURN MEETING PLACE & TIME ?

We will meet at the Church parking lot at 8:30 AM, with plans to depart at 9 AM Saturday, December 26th. We plan to return to the same parking lot on Wednesday, December 30th, at about 6 PM. Updates on our return arrival time will be available by phoning our Trip Return Hotline at 310-816-3510.

GARBAGE ?

We carry out everything we bring on the river. This would include magazines, tin cans, bottles, raincoats, etc. Everything you bring in, must be taken out.

We will not burn our paper garbage while on the river.

FOLDING CHAIRS ?

These chairs are only acceptable if they are small light weight, easy to fold & transport, as well as easy to pack in the canoe. For safety, we do not plan on using these chairs to sit in the canoes. They are for camp use only.

CANOEING SAFETY ?

We expect to make this an equally safe & fun activity for all canoeists, whether they are experienced or beginners. It is for that reason that a safety boat may join us on this adventure. However, since the individuals personal gear, as well as an equal share of Troop gear, will be in the canoes, proper attendance of the practice sessions at Lee Way Sailing Center, located on Alamitos Bay, accessed by Ocean Blvd. in Long Beach, should ensure a safe river trip.

RISK ?

This trip is not for everyone. River expeditions are fun, exciting, rambunctious, and occasionally tough to control. To join us in the fun, you must be in good health, free of heart conditions, back problems and other physical conditions which could be aggravated by this adventure. All participants must understand that there are inherent risks in any outdoor sport such as river canoeing. Accident and illness happen; sometimes even before the event. Each participant must be in good physical condition.

RESPONSIBILITY ?

We reserve the right to cancel or make changes in itinerary or river section. This might happen if it were deemed advisable for the comfort and well being of canoeists and/or were necessary due to insufficient water levels, weather, sickness or other factors beyond control. In circumstances which our organization has no control, we accept and assume no responsibility whatever for any damages, injuries, losses or delays, whether to person or property. A Boy Scouts of America Tour permit has been submitted for this trip, therefore BSA Insurance coverage amounts and regulations apply.

BAGGAGE ?

Ideally, for greater ease and comfort, all personal belongings, including your sleeping bag, should fit in one duffle bag with your name on it. But, if you must, 2 duffle bags with your name on them will be okay. In this case, one bag is for sleeping gear and the other is for your wearing apparel. It will be OK, if you wish, to have an additional, smaller day bag in the canoe as well. Just make sure all bags are properly packed, name tagged and tied to the canoe.

WHAT TO BRING ?

We want you to "be prepared" for all kinds of weather. However, please try to hold your baggage weight down. It might be helpful if you keep in mind you are carrying your own bag(s) from the canoe docking area pack line to the campsite at the end of each day, as well as bringing it back to the canoe docking area pack line the next chilly morning. So bring only the items you really need, which, as a minimum, should include:

- SLEEPING BAG.....(Be prepared for cold nights)
- WATER-PROOF RAIN SUIT.....(Good 2 piece suit. Important!)
- AIR MATTRESS OR FOAM PAD.....(Watch bulk problems of these)
- SOCKS.....(As a minimum, take 5 pairs)
- HAT, WIDE BRIM TYPE.....(For day use)

HAT, WARM WOOL TYPE.....(For evening use)
 TENNIS SHOES.....(For wet use in canoe)
 WARM CAMP SHOES.....(For use at each camp site)
 SHORTS.....(1 pair and quick drying)
 LONG PANTS.....(2 pairs minimum, cold evenings)
 SWEATER AND WARM COAT.....(It gets cold at night)
 SUNGLASSES & OTHER PERSONALS..(Necessary to you)
 FEW BAND AIDS.....(Personal first aid supplies)
 WASH KIT & TOWEL.....(And soap, hair brush, etc)
 TOILET PAPER.....(For emergencies)
 ROPE CUT IN 10 FT LENGTHS.....(For gear tie down & canoe docking)
 FLASH LIGHT.....(Extra batteries also)
 CANTEEN.....(Small plastic is best)
 CAMERA AND FILM.....(In waterproof container)
 GLOVES & KNEE PADS.....(May be needed when paddling)
SUN BLOCK OUT.....(Even for those that "don't burn!")
 PERSONAL BOWL, PLATE, MUG, &
 SILVERWARE.....(Must have name on them)

The above suggestion list may not be complete. You should complete it based on your personal needs/desires. If you are unsure about what to bring, please phone the Trip Leader.

THE BEST WAY TO PACK ?

First, don't panic. It's easy, it's simple, it's inexpensive. PAY ATTENTION HERE: Nothing--absolutely nothing-- beats an old fashioned DUFFLE BAG, GI style canvas, zipper style, nylon or cotton. We strongly recommend one duffle bag per person. Personal gear, including sleeping bags, foam pads, clothes, fishing gear, etc. should be put in one duffle per person, for ease and comfort, with your name on the bag.

Line the inside of the bag with two or three plastic trash bags -- NOT the outside, the INSIDE. Stuff your sleeping bag inside. A separate stuff or compression bag for the sleeping bag is best for this.

Next to your sleeping bag, pack your clothes, toilet articles, cameras, etc. (Zip-Loc type bags are handy for these SMALLER items.) That's it! close the plastic bags and tie them with tie tabs that can easily be removed at camp. Close the duffle bag and you're ready to go. A few extra plastic bags for later use can be put on top for good measure. NOTHING SHOULD HAVE PLASTIC BAGS ON THE OUTSIDE, THEY WILL RIP IMMEDIATELY! We want you to bring everything you need to make your trip pleasurable. BUT trucks, vans, trailers and canoes have only so much space and cannot be stretched. A canoe full of loose gear is an accident waiting to happen. Duffle bags and canoes were made for each other. TRY IT...YOU'LL LIKE IT!! Backpacks are great for backpacking, but framed packs DO NOT work in canoes. Frames WILL BE DAMAGED, so leave them home.

UNIFORM ?

As always, full BSA uniforms will be worn during automobile travel time. Uniforms will be stored just before we go canoeing in our vehicles at the base camp to ensure that they are kept neat & dry. Scout Class "B" T-shirts are recommended to be worn while on the river and at river campsites.

MENU ?

As is the tradition of Troop 212, we are planning on fantastic meals while on the river! Possible meals are:

BREAKFAST: Cheese omelets, or pancakes, or french toast w/butter hot chocolate, hot coffee, hot tea, cold cereal w/milk, or hot cereal.

LUNCH: Choice of lunch meat sandwiches, juice drink, cheese, pickles, cookies,

fresh fruit, granola bars.

DINNER: Juicy hamburgers, all you can eat corn on the cob w/butter, or Sloppy Joes, or spaghetti with sauce, hot soup, juice drink, hot coffee, hot tea, hot chocolate, dessert.

River meals will be prepared Troop style, with everyone responsible to assist.

PRE-TRIP PREPARATIONS & DUTIES ?

Long before this river adventure begins in December, detailed preparations need to be made well in advance. These include such things as food planning, food shopping, equipment readiness, prepackaging of food boxes, vehicle loading, etc. Individual Scouts and Scouters will be needed in these areas. We will meet at the Scoutmasters house on Saturday, December 5th, at 2:00 PM for equipment prep work, on Wednesday, December 23rd, at Signal Hill Costco, and on Friday, December 25th, time TBD, at the Scoutmasters house, for trailer and other equipment loading. Please contact the Trip Leader if you are available to assist with any or all of these activities.

TRIP DUTY ROSTER ?

While on this river adventure, each canoeing pair (AKA Canoe Teams) will be responsible for their own canoe and gear. Each canoe will have in it the personal gear of its occupants, the single dome tent assigned to those occupants, and some troop gear (either a lexan food box, gray food box, or food cooler). Everyday these Canoe Teams will need to load and unload their own canoe, secure with their own rope their own canoe when they get out, carry all the gear from the canoe to camp, and pitch their own dome tent when they arrive at camp.

Please note that in order to ensure an effective early morning departure every day, each Canoe Team must pack up their personal and tent equipment first thing and then immediately carry this gear to their canoe, leaving space for one lexan box or 2 coolers, which the Canoe Teams will need to carry from the kitchen area to their canoes when the meal is completed.

Also, on a daily rotation basis Canoe Teams will be on the Kitchen Crew, responsible for the Troop feeding duties listed below.

When you are on the Kitchen crew, your Canoe Team, along with others assigned, is responsible for proper food preparation, kitchen equipment & kitchen area clean up and kitchen pack up for the full days three meals. Personal utensils will be washed by the individual users, so you don't have to worry about that, but you will need to set up wash basins with hot water in order for them to do so. Your team must also monitor the food cooler ice and purchase more ice as needed whenever possible. Your team will need to properly pack the food for lunch in coolers or lexan boxes and mark them properly so it will be easier to locate while on the river. All campsite hot water requirements and stove connections will be the responsibility of your team. Your team will keep the kitchen water jugs filled at all times during any fresh water stop opportunities as well.

CANOE PAIRS/TEAMS ON THE RIVER ?

Trip participants with requests to be matched and paired in the same canoe with their buddy will be honored, as long these requests are registered with the Trip Leader in a timely manner. However, the Trip Leader may need to modify these requests based on observed canoeing abilities and weight balancing requirements.

LONG BEACH CANOEING PRACTICE SESSIONS ?

We will be conducting four scheduled practice sessions at Lee Way Sailing & Aquatic Center, 5437 Ocean Blvd, on Alamitos Bay in Long Beach at an estimated cost of \$15.00 per person. These sessions will last about 3 hours each. Attendance of at least three of these sessions is mandatory, unless otherwise discussed with the Trip Leader. However, we prefer that all River Trip Participants attend all 4 practice sessions if possible in the interest of safety. Any of our Scouts or Scouters may attend these sessions even if they do not plan to go on the December trip. The dates for these sessions are;

Saturday, Nov 7th from 1 PM to 4 PM,
Saturday, Dec 5th, from 9 am to 12 Noon,
Saturday, Dec 12th, from 9 AM to 12 Noon,
Saturday, Dec 19th, from 9 AM to 12 Noon

Arrive a bit earlier in clothes and shoes that are able to get wet, because you will be dunking the canoes. Please don't forget towels and sunscreen and spare dry cloths. There are two Release Forms that must be completed each morning in order to participate in these practice sessions.

SOUVENIR PATCHES ?

All participants will have the opportunity to earn several souvenir patches. First, there will be small patches given to each participant of the Long Beach practice sessions. One patch for each attended session will be issued. This means that some participants may earn up to three of these small patches. Then a larger, custom designed, canoeing souvenir patch, will be issued to those that complete the river run.

CANOEING MERIT BADGE ?

Scouts may be eligible to earn the Canoeing Merit Badge. If, after reading the M. B. requirements, you wish to work for this badge during this trip, you must inform the Trip Leader (who is also the M.B. Counselor) before December 25th.

GEAR WEIGH-IN & GEAR CHECK MEETING ?

In a way, the trip begins before we actually depart from the Church parking lot. Therefore, on the Monday December 21st Troop Meeting, we will all meet in Fellowship Hall at the Church with our fully packed bags of gear for gear check and gear weigh in. Any additional questions or last minute announcements or changes about the trip will also be taken care of at this meeting. After this meeting, all personal equipment bags may be brought back home for corrective action.

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS ?

As usual, we will be using FM radios during our road travel time and during river travel.

TRIP ITINERARY ?

The first day, Saturday, December 26th, will be a travel day to the Colorado River. We will stop in a rest area along the way for a picnic style lunch. This will mean that all participants will need to have brought along a bag lunch and drink. When we arrive at the river campsite, Cotton Cove Campground, at about 4 PM, all participants will set up base camp. It will be cold that evening and we will be tired from the drive. Therefore, we will use trip money to pay for an early supper at a local restaurant, in order to ensure an early bed time for plenty of rest for the rigorous days ahead.

The next day, Sunday, the 27th, will be our first canoeing day. We wake up at 6 AM. Then the first thing that morning participants will be responsible for packing up their personal belongings in their bags (ready for canoeing) and their uniforms stored in the vehicles they rode in, folding up their tents,

filling up their canteens, and getting all gear packed in trailers/vehicles to drive down to the restaurant near the River for our 7:00 AM breakfast. During these early morning activities, the drivers will lock their vehicles, containing all the Class "A" uniforms, in the specially secured area we have arranged at this camp. At 8:00 AM a bus will pick us up at the restaurant for departure to our launch location; the base of Hoover Dam. The safety boat will launch from Cotton Cove that same morning and meet us at Hoover Dam assuming the HD Security allows this. At the very least this boat will meet us at Willow Beach which is a bit down stream from HD. When we all arrive at the Hoover Dam launch site, everyone needs to make sure all canoes, life jackets and paddles are carried down to the River. This will be a group effort, with everyone pitching in to help. We have found that 4 people carrying a canoe to the water is best practice. We will be on the River all day, stopping along the way for a beach side lunch. Our camping destinations will be open beach areas. These camp site will have NO facilities.

The next day, Monday, the 28th, will be our second canoeing day. . First thing that morning, and every morning, participants will be responsible for packing up their personal belongings, filling up their canteen, and getting gear down to their canoe. By now everyone should be familiar with the required routines for cooking and packing. Lunch will be either a raft up type or a beach side type, depending on conditions. Our destination will be an open beach camping area again. This camp will not have any facilities.

The next day, Tuesday, the 29th, will be our third, and final day of full canoeing. We will be on the River for a relatively short time in the morning when you will notice it open up wide and almost looks like a lake. Usually at this time high winds become apparent, so we will travel down the right side of the water way. We are looking for Cottonwood campground again.

The last day, Wednesday, the 30th, after a good nights sleep at Cottonwood, and an easy morning breakfast at the restaurant, the group will pack the camp gear on the Troop trucks/trailer, change into our class "A" uniforms and while driving back home, we will stop and prepare lunch along the way in a rest area. Along the way home we will stop for rest breaks as needed. Since our estimated time of arrival to the Church parking lot is between 4 and 6 PM, we will make every effort to reach this goal, but not at the risk of accident or other mishap. We will update the Trip Return Hotline (310-816-3510) with the latest arrival time estimate throughout the afternoon drive home, as we are able, depending on cellular ability, and we encourage folks at home to monitor "Spot" on our web site for this travel info as well.

EQUIPMENT CLEAN UP

We have scheduled Saturday, January 2nd , 2010, 9:00 AM for all canoe trip participants to assist with this clean up effort. Location TBD.

MEDICINES?

Use of any prescription drugs need to be clearly explained to the Scoutmaster or his authorized assistant to trip departure. (Same process as Summer Camp.)

OTHER IMPORTANT & HELPFUL TIPS ?

* If you wear glasses, be sure to have tie-on strings for them to prevent lose.

* Bring something to be used as knee pads for the bottom of the canoe.

* Jewelry, rings, and other valuables should not be taken along on this trip. If it can't swim, don't take it.

* Extra spending money needs for the participants has been kept to a minimum because all meals will be paid for troop style, except to first travel day picnic lunch. Therefore, please remember to bring a bag lunch and a drink.

* Although canoe paddles will be provided by the canoe rental company, several experienced Troop 212 canoeists bring their own. This is certainly encouraged, but we are still responsible for all the rented paddles, even if we don't use them. Therefore, these rented "extra" paddles will be kept with the canoes for "emergency" purposes. We also suggest that the owners name be placed somewhere on the personal paddles.

* Each participant should bring their own bailer(with their name on it) and sponge, tied together by a 3 foot nylon cord, as demonstrated at the November Parents Committee Meeting and Troop Meeting. Bring extra cord as well in order to tie down the gars in the canoes.

GEAR CHECK FORM FOR WEIGH IN MONDAY, DECEMBER 21st^H. FELLOWSHIP HALL

(INSTRUCTIONS TO CHECKER: Mark off items below that were packed and circle items forgotten. When completed, the Trip Leader reviews the info and signs this form. Then this form is returned to participant so that he/she may make any noted improvements, if needed.)

Participants" Name:

Checkers' Name:

Will this participant be bringing a small day bag: (YES) or (NO)

How many other personal gear bags are there:

Were all bags properly packed:

Did ALL bags have the participants name on the outside:

CHECK OFF LIST:

- SLEEPING BAG.....(Be prepared for cold nights)
- WATER-PROOF RAIN SUIT.....(Good 2 piece suit. Top can double for a jacket!)
- AIR MATTRESS OR FOAM PAD.....(Watch bulk problems of these)
- SOCKS.....(As a minimum, take 5 pairs)
- HAT, WIDE BRIM TYPE.....(For day use)
- HAT, WARM WOOL TYPE.....(For evening use)
- TENNIS SHOES.....(For wet use in canoe)
- CAMP SHOES.....(For camp use)
- SHORTS.....(1 pair and quick drying)
- LONG PANTS.....(2 pairs minimum, cold evenings)
- SWEATER AND WARM COAT.....(It gets cold at night)
- SUNGLASSES & OTHER PERSONALS..(Necessary to you)
- FEW BAND AIDS.....(Personal first aid supplies)
- WASH KIT & TOWEL.....(And soap, hair brush, etc)
- TOILET PAPER.....(For emergencies)
- ROPE CUT IN TO 10 FT LENGTHS..(For gear tie down & canoe docking)

FLASH LIGHT.....(Extra batteries also)
CANTEEN.....(Small plastic is best)
CAMERA AND FILM.....(In waterproof container)
GLOVES & KNEE PADS.....(May be needed when paddling)
SUN BLOCK OUT.....(Even for those that "don't burn!")
PERSONAL BOWL, PLATE, MUG, &
SILVERWARE.....(Must have name on them)

OTHER NOTES & COMMENTS:

TRIP LEADERS SIGNATURE:

PARENT RELEASE FORMS?

As always, the standard Troop 212 form must be completed and submitted no later than the final monies are paid, deadline, Monday December 7th. Please pull down this form from our web site.

The Jerkwater Canoe Company form is attached and must be submitted by the same deadline as well.

NOTES