

Troop 212 Calico Backpack Trip – January 2010

Dear Scouts and Scouters,

Troop 212 will be backpacking Doran Canyon in Calico (35 miles NW of Barstow). This is an ideal trip for Scouts who may not have had a lot of backpacking experience. Our main focus on this trip will be the proper use of backpack gear with a short hike through a scenic desert canyon AND basic desert safety travel/awareness. Saturday's hike to camp 1 will be 2.5 miles and Sunday's hike back to base camp will be 2.5 miles mostly down hill. There is a total of only 955 feet of elevation gain spread out over 2 days on this hike.

Departure: Friday, January 29th at 7:00 PM – Church parking lot. Please arrive promptly for pack inspection.

Return Arrival: Sunday, January 31st, at approximately 3:30 PM – Church parking lot.

Hike Location: Doran Scenic Drive, Calico

Cost: \$20.00 / \$15.00 (1 dinner, 1 lunch, 2 breakfasts, snacks, patch / \$15 includes gas). **Please bring \$35.00 cash to the troop meeting on Monday, January 25th, with the standard permission slip** which can be found on the website. LAST DAY TO PAY FOR THIS TRIP IS MONDAY JANUARY 25th

Preparation: 1. Troop meeting Monday, January 25th. Backpack packing and desert safety awareness demos. Adults are encouraged to attend.

2. Junior Leader meeting, Tuesday January 26th, important backpack cooking and menu planning to be applied on this trip.

Food Shopping: **JUNIOR LEADERS ONLY.** Thursday January 28th at 7:00 PM @ Stater Bros.

Uniform: **Full uniform for travel Friday evening and Sunday after lunch.**

At a minimum, the following items should be **packed in a backpack (NO black duffel bags)**:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Warm jacket
(Day mid-60°/Night low-30°) | <input type="checkbox"/> Small baggy of Handy-wipes, Toothbrush & paste | <input type="checkbox"/> Matches to light stoves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brim Hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper & trowel (see below, very important) | <input type="checkbox"/> Poncho |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket Knife | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydration pack or water bottle (<u>filled with water</u>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils, Pens, Notebook |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight (small is best) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mess Kit (utensils, bowl, mug, etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rope – 10 Feet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen and Chapstick | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking stick (optional) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Bag <u>and Pad</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal First Aid Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle for emergencies | <input type="checkbox"/> Small towel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compass | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pair of pants and 1 shirt for hiking Saturday and Sunday | <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking boots | <input type="checkbox"/> Money for Sunday lunch stop | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermal underwear |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 pairs of socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses |

Although this is desert camping, the nights will be cold, so “be prepared”. Campfires will also be permitted! There will be no restrooms on this trip just like Randsburg. Please follow the pack list above and fill your canteens at home prior to the Friday night departure. You will need this water for the hiking portion of the trip Saturday. Water for cooking will be trucked in from Long Beach for use at the base camp and Saturday's camp 1. The water will be made available for Saturday's breakfast and dinner and Sunday's breakfast. The scouts will be cooking on light weight backpacking stoves for both breakfasts and dinner.

Trip Safety - Several areas of interest were noted on the pre run of this hike. The desert safety demo will show some examples of these.

Several spots on the trail require the hiker to either climb up or down rocks that are 2-3 feet tall. Doing this with a backpack on is dangerous as it would be easy to lose your balance and fall or twist an ankle. To avoid this, the boys will use safe backpacking techniques by using the buddy system to conquer these small obstacles.

While hiking through the canyons there are a few spots that look inviting to climb up on but doing so may dislodge some loose rocks sending them down to the hikers below. For safety and environmental reasons we will practice low impact scouting by staying on the trail at all times.

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Most areas in the California desert are riddled with mines and caves and Calico is no different. The boys will observe these from a safe distance on this hike. The trip demo will show examples of what to avoid and why. This is another reason why we will be staying on the trail at all times.

The Calico mountain range is use by many groups. It is common to see dirt bike riders and other off roaders on the same route we will be taking. The trip demo will teach the boys trail awareness and etiquette. The area is also used by shooting enthusiasts. If any shooting is heard we will have the boy take a break while an advance crew of adults goes forward to ask for a cease fire until the scouts get though the area.

Equipment

The troop owned backpacks will be available at the troop meeting on Monday, January 25th. Other troop owned equipment such as tents, will be assigned to each Scout Friday night at base camp, while stoves and cook pots, will be available and distributed on Saturday morning in order for the patrols to prepare breakfast and then pack into their backpacks. Later that same morning there will be a full pack inspection and weigh in at base camp. There is no need to purchase a backpack or other special equipment for this event, as the troop owns more than enough. Please keep in mind that we are only camping 2 nights and hiking a total of 5 miles in 2 days. A full backpack goal weight should be no more than 1/4th the weight of the scout carrying it – lighter is even better!

Uniforms will be stored in the vehicles at base camp, and not worn, or carried at hike time, so make sure you have a paper bag or sack with your name on it in order to prevent uniform mix up while being stored. We will return to base camp Sunday morning and then stopping for lunch and a fuel/bathroom stop just after Barstow. If you have any questions, please contact us before the Friday departure (refer to the ScoutTrack directory for phone numbers).

Yours in Scouting,

Fred Rawling and John Douglas