

*** NOTICE OF TROOP #212 UPCOMING BACKPACKING TRIP ***

Dear Scout & Scouter;

This trip will serve as an introductory backpack trip for most scouts and a refresher for all the others...with a high adventure twist; we will be crossing several streams that are going to present a challenge in solving a hiking problem...similar to our last Pioneer weekend...only this time for real. It is our plan to slightly increase the level of difficulty, and the level of adventure, as well as upgrade the skills of the boys to prepare for the more aggressive trip later in the year. Our campsite will be about a 4.5 mile hike ending near one of the major creeks in the area. This will ensure a water source for our group, as well as a place to cool off, if the day is hot. We will be wearing our class B uniforms. Full class A uniforms are not to be worn during this trip.

We will need adults to serve as drivers and hikers combined with us departing Saturday morning, April, 30th, meeting at the Church at 6:30 AM, and plan to depart at 7:00 AM. (Eat Breakfast at home). To prepare for the Saturday departure, we will meet Friday evening at 7:00 PM, in one of the Church meeting rooms to receive the final troop gear and food then repack the back packs accordingly. In fact we will be inspecting, and weighing, the pack loads on Friday for guidelines towards re-packing the packs. If they are packed properly, we will keep them in the meeting room overnight...but if they are not, then we will send them home with the Scout Friday evening, with instructions on how to pack them properly and return them for truck loading at 6:30 AM the next morning, (Saturday). We will not be using a base camp on this trip, but there will be someone staying at a vehicle parking/storage location for the weekend. All vehicles will need to display an Adventure Pass in the front window.

The first preparation steps for this trip will occur Monday, April 25th... at the troop meeting. During this meeting, we will be collecting \$25 per person to cover the costs of BP food, stove fuel, trip patch, and vehicle storage, as well as the signed permission slips and \$20.00 per person for auto fuel costs...total of \$45.00 per person not driving. This trip will be a troop style purchasing process with only the Trip Leaders, Theme Leaders and Patrol Leaders shopping in support of a Patrol Style and Team Pairs performing the actual food preparation for Saturday Lunch, Saturday Supper, Sunday Breakfast and Sunday Lunch.. Additional special instructions about how to prepare these meals will be given to the Junior Leaders at the Tuesday, April 26th meeting. Troop back packs and troop tents will be available for loan check out at Mondays' troop meeting, April 26th. Backpacks may also be rented at the Sports Chalet at the Town Center for a very reasonable price.

The next preparation step for this trip will occur on Thursdays' food shopping. The appropriate Junior Leaders only will meet at 7:00 PM, at Stater Bros. for food shopping. This will be an easy and short shopping trip since the boys will be provided food lists, but we will then move the boys and all the food to the Church meeting room for repackaging in preparation for distribution on Friday.

The next preparation step for this trip will occur on Friday at 7:00 PM, as already mentioned above. There we will distribute other gear, to include, food for each Team Pair, stoves with fuel tanks for each Team Pair, cooking pots for each Team Pair and water purifier kits to senior level Junior Leaders and Patrol Leaders.

In order to pack the backpacks properly, the following information should be helpful:

- Nothing is carried in your hands or around your neck.
- Keep weight down; bring as little extra as possible, but be sure to have the essentials.
- Ideally, total weight of the pack should not exceed 25 % of body weight.
- All clothes, sleeping gear, and food should be stored in waterproof bags.
- Basic gear should include external framed pack with hip belt, sleeping pad (optional), TRAIL hiking boots, WATER crossing shoes, 2 water bottles, compass, pocket knife, small flashlight, matches in water proof container, socks (2 pairs), warm jacket, sunscreen, lip balm, insect repellent, small first aid kit, toilet paper in Ziploc bag, watch, money, spoon/utensils, cup, bowl, ground cloth, light rope(25 feet) for bear bags, poncho, hat, bathing suit, towel.

We plan to reach our vehicles at the trailhead at about 1:00 PM on Sunday. We will have had our trail lunches finished by then, but a soda/ice cream stop along the way home will be scheduled, giving us a return time home of about 5:00 PM, Return times are always influenced by things beyond our control, such as how efficient we are during Sunday pack up time, and general weather conditions. Therefore, we encourage you to check the trip return **SPOT** screen on our troop web site to monitor our progress.

Yours in Scouting,

John Douglas

310-628-4312 (cell)