

BSA TROOP 212

JUNIOR LEADER COLORADO RIVER CANOE TRIP

**WALTERS CAMP LAUNCH
TO
FISHERS LANDING, AZ**

**FROM
AUGUST 3
TO
AUGUST 6
2012**

(Revised and Printed JAN 10.2012)

BSA TROOP 212 ~ COLORADO RIVER CANOE TRIP ~ SUMMER OF 2012

As you know, the Troop will canoe the Colorado River this August, 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 Walters Camp, which is 47 miles south of Blythe, to Fishers Landing, AZ. This booklet is the Guide for that trip, but , if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Trip Leader, Scoutmaster John Douglas 310-628-4312(c).

DEPARTURE & RETURN MEETING PLACE & TIME?

We will meet at the Church parking lot at 3:00 PM with plans to depart at 3:30 PM, Friday, August 3rd. We plan to return to the same parking lot on MONDAY, August 6th, at about 4:00 PM. Updates on our return arrival time will be available by checking SPOT on our Web Site Friday OR my cell phone is 310-628-4312. Best daily River updates; click the SPOT logo is on the top right hand area of our troop's Home Page.

QUALIFICATIONS TO GO?

Anyone who is a BSA registered Scouter or active Junior Leader 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. Also for the safety of all participants, we reserve the right to administer our own swim test prior to trip confirmation.

WEATHER?

August days at about 100 degrees or slightly higher, and a bit cooler at night, about 70 degrees.

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!) We will NOT have a high powered Safety Boat this trip, but the powered canoe for safety will still be on this trip.

COSTS, RESERVATION DEPOSITS, FINAL PAYMENTS, PERMISSION SLIPS, AND CANCELLATIONS?

The estimated cost of this adventure will be \$150.00 per person to cover the cost of River prepped food, souvenir patches, camp fees, vehicle parking and transport 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.

All RESERVATION DEPOSITS of \$50 must be submitted no later than the Monday, June 4th Troop Meeting. Reservations payments should be made as soon as possible to ensure we will have a place for you. Of course you may choose to pay the full amount at any time. Please be aware that trip deposits are treated as a "commitment to attend" and are forwarded to our equipment with that commitment in mind. All canoe trip payments and Trip Permission Slips are collected by Jennifer Kerr at troop meetings.

All FINAL PAYMENTS, BSA Medical Forms, if applicable, (see BSA MEDICAL FORMS below) as well as the required Troop 212 Parent Permission Forms and Desert River Canoe Rental Permission Forms (copies will be available on our web page) all must be submitted/collected no later than the Monday, July 2nd Troop Meeting. If these payments, and all required forms, are not received by the Monday, July 2nd deadline, this may be treated as an automatic cancellation, with a possible loss of deposit monies, and that spot filled by one of the waiting on "Stand by List" folks.

All checks should be payable to "BSA Troop 212". Sorry, but any bounced checks will be treated as an automatic cancellation. If you need to request a cancellation/refund, we can only return to you any un-expended funds we have not submitted/committed on your behalf to our vendors, so be sure by the June deposit deadline that you are serious about attending this High Adventure on the Colorado River.

EXTRA SPENDING MONEY?

Extra spending money needs for the participants has been kept to a minimum because MOST meals will be prepared backpacking troop style on the River as part of the trip. However, the first travel day (Friday, Aug 3rd), plan on 1 supper in a restaurant, and the last day (Monday, the 6th), plan on 1 restaurant meal, lunch, while traveling back home. These 2 meals are NOT included in the cost of this trip.

MAPS?

Maps for road travel will be handed out in the parking lot at departure time. However, they may also be found on the troop web site. River maps will be handed out while on the 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, a second, small bag, or day pack bag, for your essentials will be OK. 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. **EVERYTHING YOU BRING MUST HAVE YOUR NAME ON IT.** Bring only the items you really need, which, as a minimum, should include:

- SLEEPING BAG..... (Be prepared for warm nights)
- WATER-PROOF RAIN SUIT..... (Good 2 piece suit. Important!)
- AIR MATTRESS OR FOAM PAD..... (Watch bulk problems of these)
- SOCKS..... (For Camp shoes use)
- HAT, WIDE BRIM TYPE..... (For day use)
- TENNIS SHOES..... (For wet use in canoe)
- CAMP SHOES..... (For use at each camp site)
- SHORTS..... (1 pair and quick drying)
- LONG PANTS..... (1pairs minimum)
- SUNGLASSES & OTHER PERSONALS... (Necessary to you)
- FEW BAND AIDS..... (Personal first aid supplies)
- WASH KIT & TOWEL..... (And soap, hair brush, etc, can be stored with uniform)

TOILET PAPER & SMALL SHOVEL..... (For emergencies, in separate plastic bags)
ROPE CUT IN 10 FT LENGTHS..... (5 pcs, for all gear tie down & canoe docking)
FLASH LIGHT..... (Extra batteries also)
CANTEEN..... (Small plastic is best)
CAMERA AND SPARE BATTERY..... (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, & EATING UTENCILS.... (Must have name on them. Please note, the eating utensil will be used every meal, and washed.)
BAILER ON ROPE W/ SPONGE tied together w/ a min. 4 ft string (Must have name on it)

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, and 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 AND one small essentials bag for under the seat. BOTH need to be tied/tethered to the canoe and BOTH with your name on the bag.

For your sleeping bag, line the inside of a stuff bag with a heavy duty trash bag -- NOT the outside, the INSIDE. Stuff your sleeping bag inside. This goes in your large black duffle.

Next pack your clothes, toilet articles, cameras, etc. in Zip-Loc type bags, large and small. Place all of these in one or two larger nylon bags, or even an old pillow case, to protect the plastic bags from ripping and these go into your duffle. That's it! A few extra plastic bags for later use can be put on bottom 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. If these bags are too large, they will not fit in the canoes. Our troop standard sized black duffle bags that are used for every other trip should work fine for your needs on this canoe trip. AND a canoe full of loose gear is an accident waiting to happen. Duffle bags and canoes were made for each other. 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 on BOTH travel days. Uniforms will be stored in our vehicles while on the River 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, but not required.

MENU?

This trip we will be preparing dehydrated meals, using our back packing mess kits, stoves and butane fuel tanks. River meals will be prepared canoe team style.

MEAL TIMES?

We plan on breakfast at about 7AM. The lunch time target is 12 noon, but is dependent of beach side availability or "rafting up" arrangements. We plan on having supper by or before 5PM, to allow for ample clean up time, an evening campfire, and a good night's sleep. This supper goal will be accomplished if we can locate an acceptable beach side camping area by 3 PM that day.

PERSONAL UTENSILS?

In order to conserve washing water, each Canoe Team will be assigned one 5 gallon water jug for the weekend, you will need your own reusable spoons and forks for each meal. Trip participants will be responsible for the proper cleaning of their own utensils.

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 only burn our paper garbage while on the river during our evening campfires.

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.

TENTS AND OTHER GEAR TROOP PROVIDED?

As you can see from the Personal List above in this booklet, you do not need to bring your own tent. We have enough TWO man tents for the canoes going on this adventure.

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.)

BSA MEDICAL HEALTH FORMS REQUIRED?

If you have attended our most recent Summer Camp with the properly completed Health Forms, you are probably covered for this River trip. Please confirm this with Dana S. at d24expbug@aol.com

For all other trip participants, we suggest they schedule their appointment with their health care provider for a physical exam soonest possible, and bring the new Annual Health and Medical Record Form (Rev 2/2011) Part A, B, and C which is available under Resource/Forms on our troop website www.troop212.net/resources/forms (print pages 1-4). These completed forms will be due when final payments are collected Monday, December 5th, and will be collect by Dana S.

In order to fulfill this requirement completely, please remember;

- 1 . Part A, B, C required (For participants in any event that exceeds 72 consecutive hours, all high adventure base participants, or when the nature of the activity is strenuous and demanding)
- 2 . Make sure immunization section is complete (Part A).
- 3 . Make sure to get the Signature of the health care provider on Part A, under the medication section, and on Part C.
- 4 . Attach a copy of the medical insurance card, front and back.
- 5 . All Scout/Adult signatures on Part B

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.

PRE-TRIP PREPARATIONS ?

Long before this river adventure begins, detailed preparations need to be made well in advance. These include such things as food planning, food shopping, equipment readiness, prepackaging of food boxes, and vehicle loading. We will ALL meet at the Scoutmasters house (Alley way in the back) on Thursday, August 2nd. At 7:00 PM. for food prep, re-pack and general gear pick up.

DAILY OPERATIONS?

While on this river adventure, each canoeing pair (AKA Canoe Teams) will be responsible for their own canoe and related safety gear. Each canoe will have in it the personal gear of its occupants, the single dome tent assigned to those occupants, and their share of troop gear stored in a single gray plastic box, and one 5 gallon water jug. Each team will be responsible for their own tent set up and food prep.

DOCKING AND TIE UP PROCEDURES?

Whenever we dock on a beach for lunch, stretch break, or overnight camp, we need to be mindful of rising water levels that may draw our canoes into open water. To prevent this, we all need to pull our canoes fully onto the beach, and tied to each other, then tied/anchored to a non floating location.

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 four 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.

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS?

As usual, we will be using the troop FM radios during our road travel time. These units will used on the River as well. All adults that are assigned these for auto travel, need to bring them along for River travel as well.

ITINARY?

For actual canoeing, we will launch from at Walter's Camp, which 47 miles south of Blythe, California side, and end at Fisher's Landing, 20 miles north of Yuma, Arizona side. We will leave Long Beach Friday afternoon, and camp at Walter's Camp on Friday late night.

DAY 1, Saturday morning, plan on a 7 AM breakfast, be picked up at 8 AM by the Canoe Company vehicles and canoe trailers, at Fishers Landing Camp Ground, to be transported to Walters Camp, and launch at for a 5-6 hour paddle down to 4 S Camping area in Pichacho State Recreation Area. This is about a 16 mile day on a flowing river and we will be traveling through the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge and the Imperial National Wildlife Refuges and is a great section of the river to do because it most approximates what the river used to look like in the pre dam era. We usually share the river with power boats.

DAY 2, Sunday, the first leg of the day is a 7 mile run down to the Group Camp Site at Pichacho State Recreation Area that usually takes about 2 to 3 hours, for lunch. Then we continue for about 8 more miles, seeking a raw beach campsite.

Day 3, Monday, is a 3 mile trip down to Fishers Landing on the Arizona Side where we should arrive at about 9: 00 AM, have breakfast at the restaurant, load our vehicles that have been parked Fishers landing, and depart about 10: 00 AM. for home. We will stop along the way for lunch and fuel, which should get us home about 4:00 PM that evening....just in time for the troop meeting.

CANOE LOADING ?

There are two objectives here, one is to pack efficiently so that the gear isn't sitting too high above the gunwales, the other is to balance out the canoe so it doesn't list to one side. In addition, placing the heaviest items where they will have the least impact on your balance and maneuverability is best. In canoeing, this equates to packing the heavy gear on the bottom and in the center of the vessel. Medium-heavy items can be placed over heavier gear, and lighter items can be placed at the far ends of the canoe. This tactic will keep the canoe balanced and properly trimmed. It's likely you may need to shift some weight around once paddlers are in as well, but for the most part, the strategy of centering the majority of the weight is a common practice. Once you have it packed, you'll want to develop some system of tying everything into the canoe. A criss-crossing of ropes works well with the troop boxes, and a single tether line works well for the personal gear bags.

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 prepared troop style as part of the trip, except to first travel day picnic lunch, which you brought from home, and the last day lunch traveling back home, which will be a stop in a fast food location during one of our vehicle gas up stops. You will also need some quarters for the hot showers at Cotton Cove Campground the last canoeing day.
- 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 and December Parents Committee Meeting and Troop Meeting. Bring extra cord as well in order to tie down the gars in the canoes.
- How do we get in and out of a canoe? When shoving off, the person in front should get in first. Likewise, when landing, the person in front should get out first, stabilize or brace the canoe and remove the gear.
- Be aware of strainers. Strainers are obstacles such as trees or fences that allow water to flow through but traps boats and paddlers. Strainers are common on small streams and can be deadly in fast current.
- Immersion in very cold water can cause you to lose your breath and cause cardiac arrest in older people. Cold water can numb your extremities making it impossible to hold onto a rope or side of a boat. Hypothermia causes the body's core temperature to drop and needs to be treated. Change from cold wet clothes to dry clothes immediately.