

# Troop 212

## “Survival Weekend” - August 2013

Dear Scouts and Scouters,

Our August adventure involves “rugged” camping at Camp Silver Fir by Huntington Lake in the Western Sierra Nevada. This camp is at approximately 7,000 feet, wooded, with nearby streams and a short hike from Lake Huntington. Temperatures should be delightful (warm days, cool nights).

Scouts who have not mastered building shelters, purifying water, building fire, catching and cleaning fish (and eating fish) and first aid in the course of this year’s backpacking, scout skills, pioneering and fishing trips are **strongly cautioned** that they may not enjoy this trip and should only attend if they pair up with a buddy that has mastered complementary skills.

The goal of this trip is for the scouts to use the scout skills they have honed on prior trips this year. Scouts will have greater freedom than usual to “do it their way” (within the bounds of safe scouting of course). They are free to conceive and implement their own plans for shelter, food and fun with minimal adult supervision and near zero support outside of their buddy teams. There will be no set program organizing their time in camp.

On **FRIDAY** we’ll meet at the Church parking lot and drive (about 6.5 hours) to the camp, eating dinner en route and arriving in time to allow the scouts to make camp and plan their adventures. Adults will camp in the “developed” part of Camp Fir (with access to a fire ring, running water, restrooms and so on). Scouts will hike down a short trail (yards, not miles) and set up their own camp in a more secluded and primitive area.

The reality of the situation should set in for scouts Saturday morning. Having overnights using **only whatever gear they have packed in** (tarps instead of tents? adequate ground cloths?), they will awake to remember they have no cook boxes, no troop lexans, no troop coolers... They will have the whole day ahead of them to fill with as much fun (and as little eating) as their preparations allow.

Scouts will try fishing at the lake to feed themselves on Saturday. They will succeed at this only if they (a) bring freshwater fishing gear and a FISHING LICENSE (needed if 16 or older), (b) have paid attention to the fish cleaning and cooking demos conducted at meetings and on our saltwater party boat and (c) have learned what times of day local species will actually take bait. Scouts MUST NOT clean or cook their fish by the side of the lake or streams, nor in their own camp. All of this MUST occur at the fire ring in the adult area. Think “bears” and “tenderfeet with filet knives”.

Prepared scouts will bring means to boil water (aluminum foil?), and enough “roughing it” food to sustain them for 36 hours. Senior scouts (we hope) will remind the unprepared and younger that (i) they should not drink unpurified local water and (ii) bears will travel long distances to eat all improperly stored food in the primitive camping area (and perhaps the scouts holding or sleeping with said food).

Unprepared scouts and unlucky fishermen will not starve to death, but **they will not eat well**. “Emergency” food will be available to those who earn it by completing specific skills-testing trials. Emergency food will not include tasty snacks or homecooked meals - it will take the form of donated pheasants or fish that need to be cleaned and cooked and/or stale MREs. Scouts will enjoy the LEAST palatable of these if they prove “scout skill-less” or inadequately prepared. **Please ask your scout to think about the implications of this in advance**. The term “**10 essentials**” is emphasized by the BSA as a practical concept. Adults will be nearby - but not hovering - with first aid kits.

**There will not be any “bag check” ahead of this trip.** Patrols and parents should discuss with scouts what they have learned about packing on prior trips and should consider the abundant information available on line (troop website and Scouttrack) concerning preparedness for this geography, altitude, season and style of camping.

**Pack Distribution:** Monday August 5 at regular meeting – Attendance list will be set as payment and permission slips are collected. Troop packs (**but not other troop gear**) will be available. Prepared scouts and patrols will break into “buddy teams”, plan their meals, shopping and cooking plans, and determine what gear each buddy team member will pack and bring.

**Bag Check:** None. It is time for our scouts to prove they have paid attention on prior trips. Wise buddy teams will arrive an hour early on Friday to check that each has remembered to bring the agreed food and gear, and to correct oversights.

**Food Shopping:** None. It is time for our scouts to prove they have any idea what foods to bring with them into the wilderness. Buddy teams will need to agree what foods they will bring - *otherwise they had better fish well or enjoy plucking defrosted pheasants.*

**Departure:** Friday August 9 at noon sharp from the Church parking lot. Please arrive at least 1/2 hour early and on a full stomach for immediate loading and departure. We **MUST** beat traffic out of the LA basin. **Be sure to bring filled canteens or hydration packs for potable water upon arrival!**

**Return:** Sunday August 11 at Church Parking Lot at approximately 6pm. Please bring cash as we will have dinner on the drive up and lunch during the return drive.

**Cost:** \$35.00 (includes camp fee, patch and gas). Please bring \$35.00 cash to the troop meeting on Monday August 5, with the standard permission slip which can be found on the website.

**Uniform:** Class B for travel and survival - the Troop 212 logoed t-shirt, suitable pants or shorts and boots or shoes.

**Suggestions:** Certain of the following items may be useful. Scouts should consider that it will be easier to transport gear to their camp in backpacks rather than in duffel bags:

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|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket Knife         | <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Cloth (or 2)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Spray                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compass              | <input type="checkbox"/> Scout Handbook                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hair net                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit        | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal hygiene gear            | <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Duty Aluminum Foil     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight           | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper & trowel            | <input type="checkbox"/> Rope (10ft) and cord (50 ft) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matches or Flint     | <input type="checkbox"/> Filled canteen or hydration pack | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate clothing         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brim Hat             | <input type="checkbox"/> Mess Kit                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Decoder ring                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen and Chapstick          | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking boots         | <input type="checkbox"/> Snipe snare                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing gear and license     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag and pad | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensil/paper            | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Small towels               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> La-z-boy recliner    |   |   |

Troop owned backpacks will be available at the troop meeting on **Monday August 5**. There is no need to purchase a backpack for this event - the troop owns enough.

As is the tradition of Troop 212, this will be a safe outing. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Passage (562 708 6144) or John Douglas (refer to the ScoutTrack directory for phone numbers).

Yours in Scouting,

Dan Passage and John Douglas

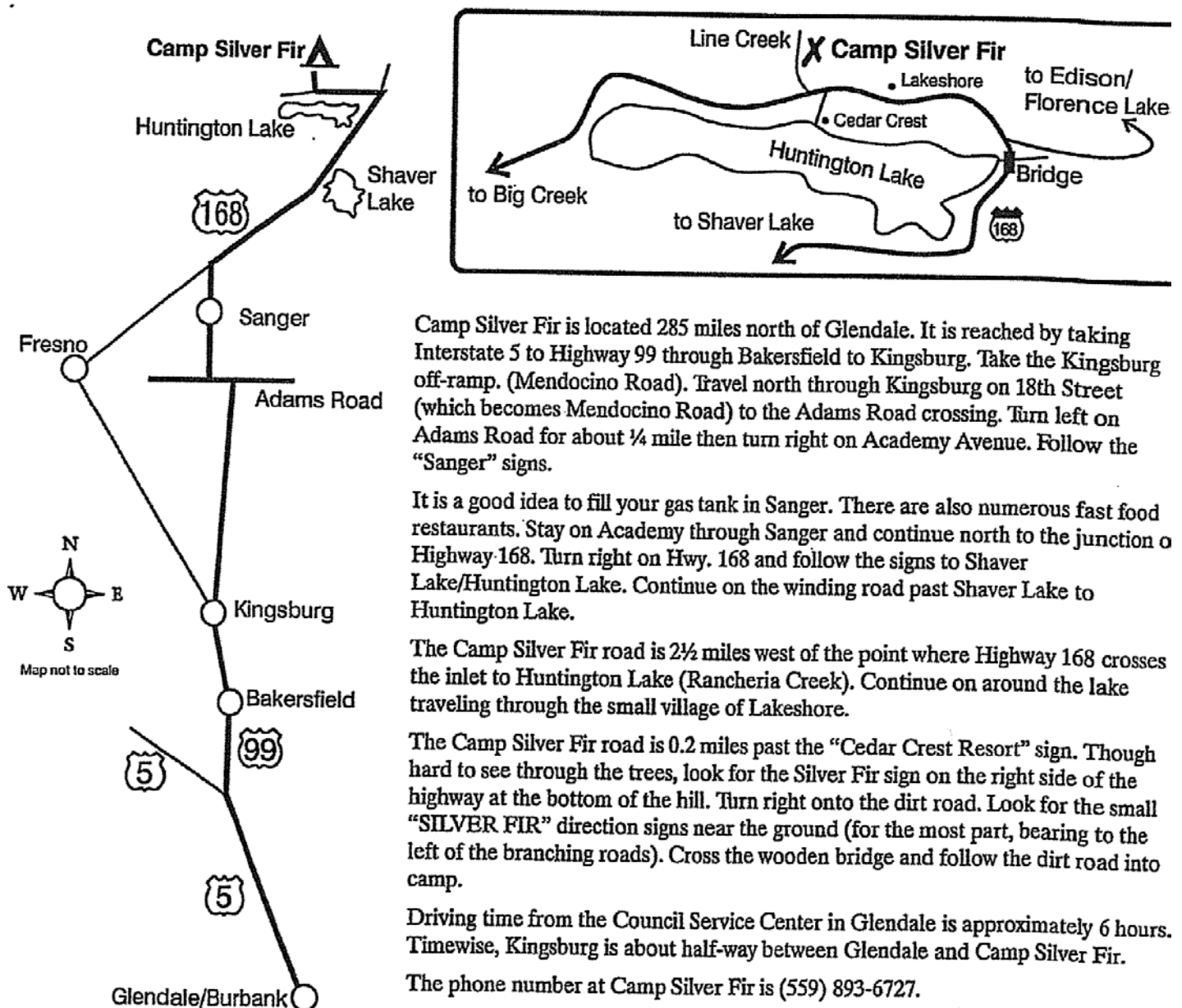
Maps to be attached

# Camp Silver Fir

Huntington Lake, California

Camp Silver Fir is located in the Western Sierra Nevada mountains east of Fresno at an elevation of 7200 feet. Open from mid-June through early September, Camp Silver Fir offers camping for units or families. The Camp is equipped with flush toilets, hot showers, electricity, picnic tables, level campsites, firewood, campfire circle and piped cold water. Silver Fir is a great jumping off point for units backpacking into the Dinkey Lakes or Kaiser Wilderness.

## Directions from Los Angeles:



Camp Silver Fir is located 285 miles north of Glendale. It is reached by taking Interstate 5 to Highway 99 through Bakersfield to Kingsburg. Take the Kingsburg off-ramp. (Mendocino Road). Travel north through Kingsburg on 18th Street (which becomes Mendocino Road) to the Adams Road crossing. Turn left on Adams Road for about ¼ mile then turn right on Academy Avenue. Follow the "Sanger" signs.

It is a good idea to fill your gas tank in Sanger. There are also numerous fast food restaurants. Stay on Academy through Sanger and continue north to the junction of Highway 168. Turn right on Hwy. 168 and follow the signs to Shaver Lake/Huntington Lake. Continue on the winding road past Shaver Lake to Huntington Lake.

The Camp Silver Fir road is 2½ miles west of the point where Highway 168 crosses the inlet to Huntington Lake (Rancheria Creek). Continue on around the lake traveling through the small village of Lakeshore.

The Camp Silver Fir road is 0.2 miles past the "Cedar Crest Resort" sign. Though hard to see through the trees, look for the Silver Fir sign on the right side of the highway at the bottom of the hill. Turn right onto the dirt road. Look for the small "SILVER FIR" direction signs near the ground (for the most part, bearing to the left of the branching roads). Cross the wooden bridge and follow the dirt road into camp.

Driving time from the Council Service Center in Glendale is approximately 6 hours. Timewise, Kingsburg is about half-way between Glendale and Camp Silver Fir.

The phone number at Camp Silver Fir is (559) 893-6727.