

Troop 212, Sespe Wilderness, Backpack Trip, March, 2013

Please read all details below carefully. This letter has updated information different than announced last week.

Dear Scouts and Scouters,

Our March backpacking adventure involves backpacking in the Sespe Wilderness, just north of Fillmore, seeking adventure: a Condor sanctuary viewing area. We will not be camping in the actual viewing area, but rather use a base camp nearby at Cow Springs Camp, and then change to day hike bags for the final leg of the hike to the sanctuary. This will be a great "entry level" hiking experience.

On Saturday morning, March 16th, we'll meet at 6:00 am at the Church parking lot and drive as close to the trailhead as possible. Please make sure scouts eat breakfast before we meet - we may not be stopping en route.

When we arrive at the parking area, which will be the roadside near a locked gate, not an actual parking lot, we begin hiking to the actual trailhead. Our beginning elevation will be about 2,800 ft. We will hike approximately 5.4 miles to our Base Camp Site, ultimately camping at about 3,500 ft. Scouts will make camp at Cow Springs, then continue about another mile, or so, to the condor sanctuary area, carrying daypacks with water, lunch and the "ten essentials."

Sunday morning we will eat breakfast at Cow Springs, break camp, making sure we practice our best Low Impact Camping Skills, and hike back to the parking area. We will stop for lunch on the way back home on the road, and scouts should bring money for that lunch. Hikers will organize and re-store troop gear on return that same day at the Church parking lot on Sunday, with the exception of the troop backpacks, which need to be returned to the troop the next day, Monday, during the troop meeting.

For this trip, troop packs will be handed out at the same meeting we are collecting money and permission slips, Monday, March 11th. On Tuesday, the 12th, an adult will complete his assigned task of purchasing the pouched dinners, based on money collected the night before. On Thursday, the 14th, meeting at 7 PM, scouts finish their food shopping at Stater Bros, as usual. On Friday, the 15th, our standard mandatory final "bag check" will be held at 7PM, room 401, where we will also distribute food, stoves, fuel, maps, and tents, enabling hikers to finish loading their packs before we depart early (and rapidly) Saturday morning.

Mid-March temperatures in the area range from the high 30's at night, to the low 60's during the day, and rain is also VERY possible.

Cost: **\$15.00 / \$10.00** (\$15 includes 1 trail lunch, 1 trail dinner 1 trail breakfast,) (\$10 for gas). **Please bring \$25.00 cash to the troop meeting on Monday, March 11th, with the standard permission slip** which can be found on the website.

Departure: **Saturday, March 16th at 6:10 AM** – Church parking lot. Please arrive promptly before departure for quick visual pack inspection and vehicle loading. Be sure to have **filled canteens** or hydration packs for the hike before you leave home

Return: **Sunday, March 17th, at approximately 4:00 PM, back** at Church Parking Lot. Please do not depart for home until all the troop gear has been accounted for.

Uniform: **Class B** or gray tee shirt.

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate clothing (Day mid-60°/Night mid-30° - possible rain) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Cloth | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Spray |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brim Hat (suitable for rain!) | <input type="checkbox"/> Poncho/Rain Gear | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm Jacket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket Knife | <input type="checkbox"/> Daypack | <input type="checkbox"/> Matches or Flint |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight (small is best) | <input type="checkbox"/> Small baggy of Handy-wipes, Toothbrush & paste | <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils, Pens, Notebook |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen and Chapstick | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper & trowel | <input type="checkbox"/> Rope – 10 Feet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Canteen filled with water | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm Sleeping Bag and Pad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compass | <input type="checkbox"/> Mess Kit (utensils, bowl, mug, etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Small towels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking boots, extra socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Scout Handbook | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle | |

Please keep in mind that a full backpack should weigh no more than one-fourth the weight of the scout carrying it, and remember to plan for carrying your share of food and troop gear distributed Friday! A National Fire Permit will be secured by one of the Theme Leaders, but every driver must secure their own Adventure Pass. Big 5 Sporting Goods stores sell these passes.

Yours in Scouting,

John Douglas

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