

Troop 212, Pacific Crest Trail Backpack Trip, December 13-14, 2014

Dear Scouts and Scouters,

Our December 13-14 backpacking adventure involves backpacking along Deep Creek on the Pacific Crest Trail. The total hike is approximately 7 miles, over the two days, and is located in the San Bernardino National Forest northeast of Lake Arrowhead. This will be a great "entry level" backpacking experience. We have been teaching the basics of back-country backpacking during the most recent troop meeting demos and will have one more teaching demo during the December 8th meeting. There will be more demos during the actual trip as well.

On Saturday morning, December 13th, we'll meet at 6:00 am at the Church parking lot and drive to Mountain Community Hospital parking lot near the trailhead. Please make sure scouts eat breakfast before we meet - we will not be stopping en route....We will be using Class B t-shirts this trip and NOT class A uniforms.

We anticipate arriving at the Trail Head parking area about 8am and begin hiking to the actual trailhead shortly after arrival. Please make sure all hiking canteens are filled at home before departure because there will NOT be water available at the trail head. Our beginning elevation will be about 5,400 ft. We will hike approximately 3.5 miles to our Base Camp Site, ultimately camping at about 4,300 ft. Scouts will make camp at a back country undeveloped site where we will review and determine what makes a good tent location, kitchen location, and a possible campfire location. Hikers can continue on a day hike thereafter, carrying daypacks with water, lunch and the "ten essentials and return for the evening to base camp.

Sunday morning we will eat breakfast, 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 drive back home so scouts should bring money for that lunch. Attendees will organize and re-store troop gear the same day at the Church parking, 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 Monday meeting, December 8th where we will be collecting money and permission slips. On Thursday, December 15th, our standard mandatory final "bag check" will be held at the church at 7pm, room location to be determined. where we will also distribute the backpacking food for Saturday supper, and Sunday breakfast, stoves, fuel, maps, and tents, enabling hikers to finish loading their packs before we depart early (and rapidly) Saturday morning...Each Scout will be responsible for their own Saturday lunch.

December temperatures in the area range from the low 40's at night, to the mid 50's during the day. and rain is also VERY possible.

Cost: **\$10.00 / \$10.00** (\$10 covers 1 trail dinner and 1 trail breakfast, not Saturday lunch) (\$10 for gas). **Please bring \$20.00 cash to the troop meeting on Monday, December 8th, with the standard permission slip** which can be found on the website.

Departure: **Saturday, December 13th 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, December 14th, at approximately 3:00 PM,** back at Church Parking Lot. Please do not depart for home until all the troop gear has been accounted for.

As 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 Thursday! A National Fire Permit will be secured by one of the Theme Leaders.

John Douglas