

Troop 212

Junior Leader Precision Rifle at Fox Canyon

September 2014

Dear High Performing Junior Leaders and Scouters,

The weekend of September 27 a **qualified group** of high performing Junior Leaders will have the opportunity to undertake an advanced course in high caliber high adventure. Working in pairs, these Junior Leaders will spend a weekend in Fox Canyon (near Calico) learning to make high accuracy, long range shots using large bore rifles and enjoying some other very unique shooting challenges. If we assume Randsburg provides basic "Shooting 101" (safe firearm handling and basics of bench rest shooting), this trip will be "Shooting 201" and "Shooting 301" combined. Meaning, specialized training and tools will be provided to enable scouts to shoot with high precision at long ranges – emphasizing slow and careful setup, shooter/spotter teamwork and proper use of precision optics to adjust for distance and wind effects. Long range shooting also involve higher caliber rifles than the .22s used at Randsburg and scout camps.

Necessarily, this trip will involve several components that are different than any prior trip. Hence the length of this trip letter. Please read this in its entirety, this trip requires more preparation and planning by attendees than most.

First, trip attendance is limited to **12** Junior Leaders to be identified and individually invited by September 1. This is partly due to the specialized nature of the equipment to be used - including very high end optics and rifles, and expensive ammunition. This is also partly because the trip is intended to reward high levels of participation and effort put in by some, but not all, of our Junior Leaders. In addition to leadership and participation criteria, the perceived maturity and ability to focus attention for extended periods of training and shooting, and physical capability of comfortably handling the significant recoil produced by high caliber rifles over hundreds of shots also will be relevant criteria for identification of qualified scouts.

Second, attendees will operate as teams. Each team will construct three pieces of equipment for team use: (i) a special type of bean bag used to micro-control the movement of rifles for long-range shots, (ii) a shooter's veil used for protection from sunlight, observation and distractions while shooting, and (iii) a team target stand. Please see the last page for a description of what attendees must obtain to make these equipment items. **Attendees must participate in an evening of advanced training and demos on September 16.** Mastery of the material and strong performance at the event will be a function of helping each other to learn and practice certain elements in advance.

Third, the activities on this trip inherently require heightened vigilance on safety issues. Attendees who are not entirely capable of and committed to paying close attention to instruction in advance and on site will be sidelined. The slightest tomfoolery or lapse of judgment will result in otherwise qualified attendees being denied attendance or sitting out the rest of the shooting events.

The extra caution, care, training and preparation though, will be very richly rewarded. Junior Leaders who attend and devote the necessary attention and focus will achieve some results that will surprise and impress them and will enjoy some activities that they are very unlikely to have experienced before and will not forget for their lifetimes.

COMMITMENT 9/15 and MANDATORY DEMO 9/16:

Junior Leaders identified to attend this trip may lock in their spots as follows:

- a. They must commit to attend the trip and the training and demo meetings by making full non-refundable payment of the [\$50] cost and delivery of signed permission slips (the Randsburg

shooting forms, not the normal slips) at the meeting September 15. They should pull those forms off the Troop site.

- b. They must attend a special training, demo and equipment prep session September 16.
- c. They must arrive at the September 16 meeting with the materials to construct their team equipment in hand.
- d. They must be able to specifically identify at the September 15 Troop meeting (when they pay and deliver permission slips) what items of the below listed special gear they can or cannot supply on their own.

Failure at any of these manageable tasks may be considered “proof” that the Junior Leader is NOT actually eligible to attend – failure to attend the September 16 meeting definitely will be disqualifying.

QUALIFICATION/TEAMS:

John Douglas has already described to the Junior Leaders the qualification standards for attendance. Those are a function of (i) status as a Junior Leader, (ii) participation as demonstrated by certain elements of the ratings chart and (iii) demonstrated maturity. Prior attendance at least one Randsburg outing or evidence of some similar experience affording at least the basics of safe firearms handling and shooting is an important additional qualification.

John Douglas, Fred Rawling and Dan Passage will allow Junior Leaders to self-identify as teams to a certain extent, but will make final determinations about team assignments based on what they already know about the Junior Leaders and observe about them during training.

WAITLIST:

Interested and “on the bubble” Junior Leaders may sign up as fill ins in case a team member drops out or “fails out” by failing to attend or clearly misunderstanding the seriousness of the advanced training and preparation. Potential fill ins should also attend the advanced training/demo on 9/16 so that they are prepared for the event should they be “called up to the teams.”

EQUIPMENT:

In addition to the usual items listed below for most campouts, attendees should bring the following equipment and should notify Dan and Fred in advance of any problems obtaining the same:

1. **Sunglasses** that are minimally vision distortive
2. A **shooting pad** (which can be simply a heavy tarp and thick blanket or two that will not be missed if damaged). Ask Dan or Fred for details.
3. **Knee pads** (attendees will be getting into and out of prone and other shooting positions all weekend and their knees will be sore if they do not use kneepads).
4. If the attendee owns or can borrow a **spotting scope** or very high magnification binoculars or even a small telescope (12x magnification or greater ideally), he should. Tripod mounting for the same would be VERY helpful.
5. A camp **stool** or small chair to be used on the range (in addition to a larger camp chair to be used for camp fire and dining).
6. Some unusual or funny **“reactive” target**. For example, Dan is bringing a bobblehead. A pumpkin or melon would be perfect, a weird stuffed animal is ok in “tone” but perhaps won’t give the exciting visual feedback we want to reward. NOTE: Nothing that will involve shattered glass or plastic or difficult cleanup (i.e. non- biodegradable) is allowed. Attendees should bring their proposed reactive targets to the mandatory training/demo meeting 9/16 for approval.

Don’t forget “the Usual” : Junior Leaders should pack and transport the usual gear to camp in duffel bags:

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|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket Knife | <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Cloth (or 2) | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate clothing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Filled canteen or hydration pack | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing gear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Mess Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Towels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brim Hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen and Chapstick | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal hygiene gear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag and pad | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensil/paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper & trowel (<u>not kidding</u>) |

Hot Desert Conditions:

We are camping and exerting ourselves in the Mojave in late September. It will be triple digits all day, probably windy. Dehydration and heat exhaustion will be very real risks. Attendees should pack suitable clothing and bedding, and keep well hydrated. Clothing should be lightweight, loose fitting long sleeve shirts and pants, close toed shoes (light weight boots best) and a wide-brim hat. There will be periodic breaks for relaxing in the shade and ensuring focus is regained between sets.

CALENDAR:

Attendees will depart Friday 9/26 from the Church parking lot and drive (about 2.5 hours plus traffic) to the camp, arriving in time to allow the scouts to make camp and assemble their gear.

On Saturday the teams will get still more training and then put into practice what they are taught about long range shooting, and enjoy some very special even higher caliber shooting and low light shooting. On Sunday the teams will enjoy a set of "top shot" type challenges. The winning team will enjoy a special "last word" shooting opportunity before camp is broken and we hit the road, eating lunch en route back to the Church.

Bag Check: None.

Food Shopping: TBD at advance planning meeting on 9/16.

Departure: Friday 9/26 at 7pm from the Church parking lot. Please arrive at least 1/2 hour early and on a full stomach for immediate loading and departure. Traffic out of the LA basin will be brutal and a delayed departure will add to the misery.

Return: Sunday 9/28 at Church Parking Lot at approximately 4pm. Please bring cash as we will have lunch during the return drive.

Cost: \$50.00 (includes ammunition and food, but no gas allowance). Please bring \$50.00 cash or check to the troop meeting on Monday 9/15, with the RANDBURG form permission slip which can be found on the website.

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

As is the tradition of Troop 212, this will be a safe outing. If you have any questions, please contact Fred Rawling (310 345-4833) or Dan Passage (562 708 6144) or John Douglas (refer to the ScoutTrack directory for his information).

Yours in Scouting,

Fred Rawling, Dan Passage and John Douglas

Elements of Special Equipment

Attendees are on their own to obtain and bring **ALL** of these to 9/16 Training and Demo

1. For bean bag, each **team** should bring:
 - a. A cheap pair of women's nylons – new or used – they will be ruined
 - b. A pair of men's sized socks – new or used - dress socks or hiking socks work better than tube socks – they will be ruined.

2. For shooter's veil, each **team** should obtain online or at a Joanne's type store for approx. \$5 total:
 - a. Approx. 40"x40" thin piece of material – like an oversized kerchief or a shemagh – colors should be selected based on environment (desert tan, OD green) but not neon orange, for example.
 - b. Approx. 40"x40" piece of webbed cotton fabric something like the below (exact type not mission critical).



3. For target stand, each **team** should acquire at a Home Depot or Lowes and bring the following to make 1 target stand:
 - a. Two ten foot lengths of 1/2" pvc pipe that they have cut or had cut to 10 2 foot lengths (approx. cost \$4) With some jawboning, Dan persuaded the guy at Lowe's to let him use the special cutter on site to cut his own. Since they are selling pre-cut two foot sections for about \$1.50 per, they are economically incentivized to push you to buy the pre-cut lengths. Don't be fooled... Much cheaper to buy 10 foot lengths and cut them.
 - b. Exactly 4 joints for 1/2" pvc that are shaped like this (approx. 37cents a joint):



- c. Exactly 2 joints for ½" pvc that are shaped like this (approx. 17cents a joint):



- d. One or more sheets of cardboard approximately 24"x24" (free if you find a large old box). Please use a hole punch to cleanly punch 2 holes about ½" in from edge and about 2" from each corner of the cardboard (a total of 8 holes, two on each side, nearish to the corners)
- e. We will supply zip ties to secure the cardboard to the frames on site.
- f. DO NOT assemble the frame, and especially DO NOT glue any of the pvc pieces together, just bring them (and your cardboard) in a bag to the training/demo meeting 9/16

Any team where both members want to make their own bean bag, veil or stand is welcome to separately obtain each set of items above. Stand by Junior Leaders also may AT THEIR OPTION obtain such materials and bring them to the meeting 9/16. Dan purchased only enough of the fill for 6 bean bags (and that will be "on the house"). Additional bean bags will require attendees to obtain more poly-fil. Dan found 32 oz sacks (each sack is enough for 2 bean bags) at Michael's for approx. \$10 a bag. On-line pricing did not appear to be any better.

Maps to be attached