

BSA TROOP 212

COLORADO RIVER CANOE TRIP

**HOOVER DAM
TO
COTTON COVE MARINA**

**FROM
7 AM, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26
TO
9 PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29
2015**

(Updated 12-01-15)

BSA TROOP 212 ~ COLORADO RIVER CANOE TRIP ~ WINTER OF 2015

As you know, the Troop will canoe the Colorado River this December, 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 Hoover Dam to Cottonwood Cove Marina. 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 7:00 AM, with plans to depart at 7:30 AM on December 26th. We plan to return to the same parking lot on Wednesday , December 29th, about 9:00 PM. This return portion of the trip is new to the schedule, and we will be changing rested drivers repeatedly to ensure minimum road fatigue. Updates on our return arrival time will be available by checking SPOT on our Web Site OR my cell phone is 310-628-4312. For best daily River updates as well, 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?

December days at about mid 60 degrees or slightly higher, and a bit cooler at night, at about 35 degrees.

IS IT SAFE?

White water, or any fast water, is at a minimum on this river adventure, although the river can be quite swift and challenging in several places, depending on Hoover Dam water release schedules. 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 occasionally, but no obstacles or obstructions.

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

The estimated cost of this adventure will be \$200.00 per person to cover the cost of River prepped food, souvenir patches, camp fees, hotel fee the first night, 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 have been collected as per the payment schedule posted on our Program Payments Schedule.** Reservations payments ensure we will have a place for you because we are limiting this event to 17 canoes, which is 34 participants. 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 vendor with that commitment in mind. All canoe trip payments, Troop Permission Slips, and Canoe Vendor Rental Agreements, are collected by Joanne and Alma during Monday 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 during the November and December troop and Parents meetings. The final deadline for these payments and forms is posted on our Payment Schedule. If these payments, and all required forms, are not received by 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 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, and buffett style while staying at the hotel. However, the first travel day plan on bringing a bag lunch and drink for the road side picnic area we traditionally use, and the last day traveling home, plan on one fast food restaurant supper. These 2 road traveling 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 may be handed out during training meetings, if we can get theses copied properly, but certainly will be handed out at the Trip Briefing Update Session on December 26th at 7 PM in John's hotel room.

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 Trip Plan 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 tethered 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)
- WOOL CAP (for cold evening s)
- WARM SWEATER.....
- WARM OUTER COAT.....

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 is allowed 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. Then 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 for when we exit the river. Scout Class "B" T-shirts are encouraged, and will be rewarded, to be worn while on the river and at river campsites, but not required.

MENU?

This trip we will be preparing dehydrated meals, canned foods, and frozen foods, using transportable propane stoves, and troop cooking pots. River meals will be prepared "canoe team" style. Each canoe will be assigned a gray plastic tub containing most of the personal food and some kitchen equipment for preparing this food, with the exception of supper, which will be prepared by selected team members in a central feeding location. Each canoe will also be assigned one piece of troop gear they are to keep track of and make available every evening at camp. Examples of this might be the troop first aid kit, troop axe, troop saw, or troop rope for securing canoes, and maybe even a few lanterns.

MEAL TIMES?

We plan on breakfast at about 7AM while on the River, and at 6 AM while at the hotel. 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 be thrifty with washing water, each Canoe Team will be assigned 2 five gallon water jugs for the FULL TRIP; you will need your own reusable hot drink mugs, breakfast bowls, spoons and forks for each meal. Trip participants will be responsible for the proper cleaning of their own utensils. The supper preparation pots will be washed out by the selected Canoe team that prepared the supper meal.

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. Each canoe will be responsible for its own trash management.

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 most the canoes going on this adventure. If any of you would feel more comfortable using your own tents, please let the Trip Leader know at least two weeks before the trip departure.

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 Frances Gowell.

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, food preparation skills, 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, December 24 at 10 AM, to pack trucks, and trailers with troop gear required for the trip. These items are your responsibility to make sure come along with us on the trip. This meeting on the 24th may be modified at the last minute, depending on how many pickup trucks we have on this adventure.

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 two 5 gallon water jugs. Each team will be responsible for their own tent set up and food prep for breakfast (hot water and coffee available at a central location) and lunch on the river. The suppers will be a group feed, prepared in a central location, easily accessible for all participants.

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 back into open water. To prevent this, we all need to pull our canoes fully onto the beach, and sometimes tied to each other, then 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 three 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.

PROPER ID'S?

Please remember that as part of the Hoover Dam security, they may ask everyone for ID credentials. Typically, driver's licenses and School ID's are the usual things to show. Also, please remember to keep them handy, and NOT pack them in your canoe bags until we are actually by the Launch Site at the bottom of Hoover Dam

LONG BEACH CANOEING SAFETY PRACTICE SESSIONS?

We will be conducting THREE scheduled practice sessions at the Boy Scout Sea Base, Long Beach at a cost of \$15.00 per person, from 8:30 AM to 12 noon. All three sessions are designed to be a sequential physical and technical knowledge build up of skills and abilities required of each participant, as well as covering important safety procedures. Missing any of these safety sessions may cause you to miss an important skill or safety procedure that could affect your ability, or someone else's, to have fun and be safe on this trip, so full participation in all three safety sessions is strongly encouraged. Attendance of the final safety practice session on December 19th is mandatory in order to attend the Colorado River trip this December. Any of our Scouts or Scouters may attend these sessions even if they do not plan to go on the December trip. The dates for these sessions are Dec. 5th, 12, and 19th. We will collect the ONE permission slip, the standard troop 212 version, and fees of \$15.00 person , per session, efficiently that morning and not sacrifice any of our practice time, which begins promptly at 9:00 AM . Please remember to arrive in clothes and shoes that are able to get

wet, because you will be dunking the canoes, swimming in our cloths, and wading in the water to enter the canoes. Please don't forget towels and sunscreen and spare dry cloths.

GEAR WEIGH-IN & GEAR CHECK MEETING?

In a way, the trip begins before we actually depart from the Church parking lot. We say this because on the Monday December 21th Troop Meeting, we will all meet in the large Hall, at the Church with our **fully packed bags** of gear for gear check. PLEASE use the gear list above a guide for what items we will be expecting each participant to show us during gear check Scouts not attending the canoe trip will be assembling the Christmas Illuminations kits. Any additional canoe trip questions or last minute announcements or changes about the trip will also be taken care of at this meeting. After this meeting, all personal equipment bags may be brought back home for corrective action.

TRIP ITINERARY

The first day, December 26th, will be a travel day to the Colorado River, Cottonwood Cove and Marina Camp Ground, (River Base Camp). Along the way we will stop in Barstow for fuel, and later in a road side rest area to have the bag lunches/drinks you all have brought from home. When we arrive at this River Base Camp, at about 2 PM, and after a brief orientation, all participants will change out of their uniforms and into Class B play cloths, and transfer all gear to the Canoe Support Vans. The plan is to store uniforms in the parked cars to ensure they are clean, and dry for the return drive home. All vehicles (park them facing OUT for easier departure later) will remain at the River Base Camp. We will depart at about 3 PM and proceed about two more hours by Canoe Support Vans to our launch location Hotel near Hoover Dam. We will be staying at the Rail Road Pass Hotel in Henderson, Nevada. Since we will be tired from the drive, we will plan on having a 6:00 PM supper at the hotel, and after a 7 PM Safety Review Meeting, go to bed early, in order to ensure plenty of rest for the rigorous days ahead.

The next day, the 27th, will be our first canoeing day. We wake up early enough to attend the 6:00 AM breakfast at the hotel restaurant. Participants will be responsible for packing up their personal belongings in their bags (ready for canoeing), filling up their personal canteens and troop owned five gallon jugs, and getting all gear packed in trailers/vehicles by 6:50 AM to drive to the Hoover Dam launch Check In Site by 7:00 AM above the Dam . We will be given only 45 minutes to load/launch the canoes so we will stop/meet at the first nearby gravel beach, about 300 feet down river on the right, for proper re-loading, re-balancing. (See CANOE LOADING below for more details) This part of the river is largely untouched by civilization, so the first, and pretty much the last, civil bathroom will be found at Willow Beach Marina much later in the day. We will camp about 2 miles downstream from Willow Beach Marina, on the right side. The lead canoes will be seeking a large beach we all can camp on. This camping destination is an open beach area about 14 miles downstream from our original Dam based launch point. This camp site will have NO facilities. When we all arrive at this first camp everyone needs to make sure all canoes, life jackets and paddles are secured. We will be on the River all day, stopping along the way for a beach side lunch and stretch breaks. The plan is to have all the canoes off the River by 3:00 PM, have supper by 4:00 PM, and clean up completed by 5:00 PM, as it begins to get dark and colder.

The next day, the 28th, will be our second canoeing day. First thing that morning, like every morning, participants will be responsible for packing up their personal belongings, filling up their canteens from their water jugs, and getting gear into their canoe. By now everyone should be familiar with the required routines for cooking and packing. After a warm breakfast at about 7:00 AM, again, with a quick and early departure, we will be canoeing a bit further today for about 17 miles this day. Lunch will be either a raft up type or a beach side type, depending on conditions. Also depending on conditions, we believe our camping destination will be an open beach camping area again, located just upstream from the overhead power lines crossing the River. This camp will not have any facilities, and we have picked the best spot that can handle a group of our size. The plan is to have all the canoes off the River by 3:00 PM, have supper by 4:00 PM, and clean up completed by 5:00 PM, as it begins to get dark and colder.

The next day, the 29th, will be our third and final day of canoeing. Breakfast will be at about 7:00 AM, again, and we need to perform the usual morning routine to get on the water. This day may be quite windy. We will be on the River for a relatively short time in the morning when you will notice it opens up wide and almost looks like a lake. Often at this time high winds become more apparent, so we will travel down the safest side of the

water way, depending on conditions, which often include small white caps. This is where the practice session really pay off. Some years this portion of the trip has had no wind, but we are traveling only 11 miles this day, so we are looking for Cottonwood campground, on the right side early in the day. In fact, the plan is to have all the canoes off the River by about 1:00 PM if no wind, and about 3:00 PM if there is wind, unload our personal gear into our vehicles, get in our uniforms, and head for home an hour later, stopping in Searchlight NV for auto fuel.

About two hours later we will be stopping in Barstow for supper (4:00 PM - 6:00 PM ?) Along the way home we will stop for rest breaks as needed. Our estimated time of arrival to the Church parking lot is between 7:00 and 9:00 PM. Since we have 19 participating adults, we will be taking advantage of them by rotating drivers regularly to avoid any risk of accident or other mishap during these driving hours. Updates on our return arrival time will be available by checking SPOT on our Web Site , by clicking the SPOT logo is on the troop's Home Page, OR my cell phone is 310-628-4312.

CANOE LOADING?

There are two objectives here, one is to pack efficiently so that the gear isn't sitting too high above the gunwales, and 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 best positive 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 most of the meals will be prepared Canoe Team style as part of the trip. You may also need some quarters for the hot showers at Cotton Cove Marina, but we are not clear on this point...yet....but; "Be Prepared"!
- 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 4 foot nylon cord, as demonstrated. Bring extra cord as well, pre-cut into several 10 ft sections, in order to tie down the gear in the canoes.
- Sunscreen applied very, very often and wide brim hats will be required on this trip.
- 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.

-END-