



## Troop 212 – Marooned on Catalina

Aug 2016

Dear Scouts and Scouters,

Since we are a High Adventure troop, and with an eye towards “being prepared”, we are going on a three hour boat ride to Catalina Island where we are going to maroon our scouts on a remote beach on the island to see how they will survive in the wild. This event is a cross between Swiss Family Robinson survival and Gilligan's Island. We've been training the scouts during the troop meetings, for the last few weeks on the basic survival skills everyone who ventures into this event should know. They are;

1. **Shelter** (and proper attire) – Shelter is the survival technique by which you protect your body from excess exposure from the sun, cold, wind, rain or snow. Anything that takes away or adds to your overall body temperature can be your enemy. This risk must be controlled in a matter of hours.
2. **Water** - Water is vital towards your survival. Ration your sweat not your water intake. This risk is must be controlled in 1 day max.
3. **Food** – Food is energy. Try to conserve your energy, but after you have shelter and water, you need to replenish your energy in order to think and act effectively. This risk is next because it must be controlled in 2 days.
4. **Fire** – Fire is a critical survival skill. Fire can purify water, cook food, signal rescuers, provide warmth, light and comfort, help keep predators at a distance, and can be a most welcome friend and companion. This risk is important to assess soonest based on the three needs above.
5. **Signaling** – Signaling is unique among survival techniques in that it gives you the means and ability to alert any and all potential rescuers that you are in need of HELP. Fire, flashing light, bright color markers, flags, mirrors, whistles all will help you be found. This risk is important to assess soonest possible based on when you will be considered overdue, as a result of your submitting a safety flight plan to a trusted individual at home. This risk may be a matter of hours or days, or never, which depends on that submitted plan.

Please water proof pack all necessary gear into a single daypack that can get submerged in the salt water sea. Nothing else will be allowed as a "carry" item. You will be simulating survival conditions by swimming to the beach shore with this gear bag in tow, and a life jacket worn. Please make sure you have, at a minimum, the boy scout ten essential items in your pack as you will be using most of these tools on this adventure. We stress seriously the need to make sure your gear is packed in waterproof bags in an attempt to keep as much of your gear as dry as possible. Not only will you and the gear be wet, but likely drag across the sandy beach as if you were truly marooned or shipwrecked. A well packed bag would also serve as a handy floatation aid or you could bring a small piece of rope, where you can drag the pack behind you as you swim to shore. There is no loading dock at the beach site, so it is up to you to try and keep your gear as clean and dry as possible.

Since we are going to be marooned, there is no need to go food shopping. The campsite will be very primitive, so the scouts are encouraged to pack a few survival essentials, such as: water, energy bars, matches, small blanket/ sleeping bag liner/sheet, fishing line, hooks, and anything else a prepared scout can think of for the adventure. As part of the program, there may be some food rations hidden on the island or possibly washed ashore during the "shipwreck", along with some other ancillary items to help the scouts cope during the marooned adventure. It should be an exciting and educational experience, so we hope you can join us.

We will **not** be providing troop tents, lexan food boxes, wood cook boxes or any other gear from troop storage....just what is listed above. More detailed instructions will be shared with the boys during the Monday meetings leading up to the excursion.

Our plan is using the Long Beach Sea Scouts boat, for transport to Parsons Beach on the near side of Catalina. We will be performing a bag check and loading personal gear, onto the Boat, on Friday, August 26 at 7:00 pm , as well as the Boat Captain conducting a required safety review session about

the boat. Afterwards, you will be heading home to sleep comfortably in your own bed for the night. We will meet back again at the same dock the next morning, Saturday, August 27 at 6:00 am sharp and will be departing for a three hour boat ride.

The uniform for this event is Class B t-shirt, hat, swim trunks, sunscreen, and water shoes. All participants should expect to get very wet when departing the boat for the beach shoreline. While meals will be part of the survival challenge, the Sunday "Rescue Boat" will have lunch and fresh drinks for us to enjoy on the trip back to home base.

**Loading Meeting: Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM** – Boy Scout Sea Base lot. For gear loading and safety check, please be prompt.

**Boat Departure: Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 AM** – Same parking lot. Please arrive before departure time.

**Return Arrival: Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 3:00 PM** – Same parking lot

**Cost: \$55.00** per person to cover the cost of camp fees, boat fuel, ice, and food. Please bring \$55.00 CASH or CHECK to the Court of Honor , Troop Meeting , on Monday, August 22nd, with the standard permission slip which can be found on the website. All checks need to be made out to “ BSA Troop 212”.

Space on this trip is limited so be sure to get your payment and paperwork in on time. If we fill up the boat, adults will be requested to bow out in order to make room for qualified and interested Scouts.

If two scouts are tied with equal qualifications to attend, then the Rating Chart will be used to break any ties.

And of course, as in any BSA water event, for safety, an additional qualification to attend this trip is having passed the BSA swim test completed earlier this year at the pool event or summer camp, or equivalent swim capable certification, as determined by the Scoutmaster.

The Boy Scout list of 10 essential should be followed. Please make sure the owners name is on each item. In addition, you may want to consider the following;

- Appropriate clothing  
**(Day high ; 85°/Night low; 55°)**
- Brim Hat, Wide
- Towel
- First Aid Kit, personal
- Flashlight
- Ground Cloth
- Handy-wipes
- Hydration pack or Canteens (FILLED at home)
- Sunscreen and Chapstick
- Toilet paper
- Light jacket
- Insect Spray
- Matches
- Mess Kit (utensils, bowl, mug, etc)
- Pocket Knife
- Poncho
- Rope – 10 Feet
- Sunglasses
- Dry clothes for evening
- Shelter. no troop tents provided
- Light blanket/folded sheet/sleeping bag liner, or sleeping bag, but it must fit in your daypack/backpack.

We expect the days to be quite warm, but the nights will be a little chilly. Please bring warm clothes for the evening.

Fishing gear on this adventure is allowed, as long as you have your proper California Fishing License with you.

As is the tradition of Troop 212, this will be a very safe outing. We will have a five watt radio with us to be in touch with the Sea Scout boat, and we will have SPOT with us, so families can monitor our return transport progress for timely Sunday pick up in Long Beach. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Scouting,

John Douglas

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