

Troop 212 – Mountain Survival Trip ,Sept 2016

Dear Scouts and Scouters,

Since we are a High Adventure troop, and with an eye towards "being prepared", we are going on a "day hike" on the trails above Fawnskin, near Big Bear Lake, where we will be dropped off and abandoned in a remote area in those mountains to see how we would survive in the wild. 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.

All participants, Scouts and Adults, should pack all necessary "essential" gear into a single daypack. We will be simulating survival conditions. Please make sure you have, at a minimum, the boy scout ten essential items in your pack, because most of these tools will be used on this adventure. Participants may bring additional "common sense" items, as long as they fit in the day pack. In addition, we stress seriously the need to make sure this gear is packed in waterproof bags in case it rains in the afternoon, which is often the case during high altitude adventures such as this one.

Since we are going to be "surviving off the land", there is no need for the troop to go food shopping. In fact, we suggest each participant perform their own field of independent study to determine the natural way to properly/safely prepare and eat the local, non poisonous vegetation and animals. One of the local animals is the Saber Toothed, Long Tail MRE, so we suggest each participant bring a generous amount of snare wire (type needed will have to be researched by each participant) so a proper catch device can be created....remember to bring some bait for the animal trap as well.

Some hidden cached treasures, left over from prior Survivalists, may be available on this trip. Participants may be able to find these in one or more of the following ways; 1) compass and stride measuring from notes left behind, 2) GPS cache co-ordinates, which will require your phone to have a GPS software download, just like the Merit Badge requirements, 3) some treasures are marked with low level frequency radioactive isotope tags, which will require a special Geiger counter to locate.

Just so there is no misunderstanding, the campsite will be very primitive, so the scouts and adults are encouraged to pack the survival essentials, as outlined in the Boy Scout manual, such as: water, energy bars, matches, small blanket/sleeping bag liner/sheet, knife, rope, and anything else a prepared scout can think of for this adventure.

We will **not** be providing troop tents, lexan food boxes, wood cook boxes, backpack gear, or any other gear from troop storage. More detailed instructions may be shared with the boys during the Monday meetings leading up to this adventure. We will NOT be performing a bag check.

There will be a small Advanced Crew departing the Friday evening of this adventure, therefore the main body of the troop will **not** be departing Friday night. Instead, the main body of the troop will be departing very early Saturday morning, and we will need our adult drivers to assist us Saturday morning, and Sunday about noon, with transportation. Our drop of site is Tanglewood camp, above Fawnskin, which is near Big Bear Lake.

The uniform for this event will be Class B t-shirts, and proper footwear. We expect the days to be quite warm, but the nights will be a little chilly. Please bring warm clothes for the evening, since campfires are about to be banned in this State.

As is the tradition of Troop 212, this will be a very safe outing. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Scouting,

John Douglas

Scoutmaster@troop212.net

MORE INFO....

Meet for Departure: Saturday, Sept 17, at 6:00 AM – Church parking lot. Please be prompt.

Return Arrival: Sunday, September 18, at approximately 3:00 PM – Same parking lot

Cost: \$15.00/\$10.00 per person. Please bring payments to the troop meeting on Monday, Sept 12, 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 submitted on time on the 12th. Adults are encouraged to fully participate, performing the same survival duties as the boys. Just to be clear, this trip will have no base camp "luxuries". To make it easier for the adults, a special 2 hour training course will be held for the adults on Thursday, Sept 8, from 7 PM to 9 PM, at the Church Hall. Either way, we will still need several adult drivers to deliver us to the campsite on Saturday, and assist with trip return on Sunday.

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

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