**Based on some questions I have received form a few participants, I thought perhaps this excerpt from the trip booklet might be of interest to you .....**

**TRIP ITINERARY 2017**

**The first day, December 26th**,  MEET AT CHURCH 7:30 AM,. and  ROAD travel to the Colorado River, Cottonwood Cove in uniform.  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, all participants will change out of their uniforms and into Class B play cloths, and transfer all gear to the Canoe Support Vans/trailers. 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, the Hoover Dam Resort. . 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 6:30 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  7:00 AM ....for Launch Check In of 7:15 AM above the Dam .  Our launch time begins at 8:00 AM, and lasts only 60 min.  ***PHASE 1*** is, all participants will unload the vans, and trailers of all gear, including canoes, paddles, life vest, etc, regardless of gear/canoe numbering, STAGED near ( not at)  water's edge.  ***PHASE 2*** is , we will help each other to TEMPORARY ( no tie downs)   load/launch the canoes at the waters edge by canoe numbers and cast off. ***PHASE 3***  is,  we will stop/meet at the first nearby gravel beach, about 300 feet down river on the right, for proper re-loading, re-balancing and  tethering. .  ***PHASE 4*** is, we all depart as a team at the same time from the gravel island only when all participants have completed their reloading properly, and approved to depart by the Scoutmaster.  Lunch will be either on a discovered beach or by rafting up is small groups.  Please note, this 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. All are encouraged to stop there to use the facilities, as well as visit the store for a snack.  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 beach 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 stored in their canoes, secure for the night.  The plan is to have all the canoes off the River by 4:00 PM, and start serving supper by 5:00 PM, and clean up completed by 7:00 PM, as it begins to get darker  and colder.

**The next day, the 28th**, will be our second day on the water. First thing that morning, like every morning, participants will be responsible for packing up their personal belongings, filling up their canteens from their large 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 departure of about 8:00 am ( may be 8:30 am) , we will be canoeing a bit further this day  for about 17 miles. 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 very large overhead power lines crossing the River and marked by several large, orange balls attached to these high power lines. ( It's funnier to say than it is to write it....ha..ha..)   This camp usually does not have any facilities, and we will do our best to select an area that can handle a group of our size. The plan is to have all the canoes off the River by 4:00 PM, have supper by 5:00 PM, and clean up completed by 6:00 PM, so we can enjoy a large camp fire, 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 we 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 water/wind conditions, which often include small white caps. When these rough conditions appear, we gather up the group in a non windy cove , usually on the left side of the River, to collect everyone safely, and make plans to achieve the best crossing . This is where the Long Beach practice sessions really pay off.   We are traveling only 11 miles this day, and we are looking for Cottonwood Cove Marina and  Campground, on the right side. In fact, the plan is to have all the canoes off the River by about 4:00 PM, even if there is wind,  unload our personal gear, set up for an overnight camp, out of the wind, and shower. We have group reservations for supper at 6 PM, in the Marina Café. Some folks have decided to take the optional upgrade to the hotel instead of camping out.  It is still not too late to set this up, if anyone is considering it.

**The next day, the 30th,** after a 6:30 AM breakfast at the Marina  Cafe in uniform, we get into our vehicles at about 8:00 AM, and head for home, stopping in Searchlight NV for auto fuel.

About two or three hours later we will be stopping in Barstow for lunch. You should have your lunch money in your pockets, and NOT packed  in the duffle bags. Later that day, along the way home, we will stop for rest breaks as needed.

Our estimated time of arrival to the Church parking lot is about 3-4  PM. Updates on our return arrival time will be available by checking SPOT on our Web Site. Simply click the SPOT logo is on the troop’s Home Page,  OR my cell phone is 310-628-4312.  We will have the scouts call home about 30 minutes away from the church parking lot.