Dear Scouts and Scouters,

This year’s scout skills weekend will be at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Campground. It’s been a couple of years since our last trip here and the recent rains should provide us with some green hills to enjoy in this large group site. The program will include basic scout skills for newer Scouts and a refresher for more experienced scouts including knots/lashings, map/compass, first aid, fire building, and troop equipment basics.

**Food shopping is at 7:00 pm Thursday, March 21st, at Stater Bros.** Scouts should shop for two breakfasts, one lunch and one dinner. Trail snacks recommended for Saturday.

**Meeting: Friday, March 22nd at 7:00 PM** – Church parking lot. For gear loading, please be prompt.

**Departure: Friday, March 22nd at 7:30 PM** – Church parking lot. It is approximately a 3 to 3.5 hour drive (~140 mi) to the camping location, depending on traffic.

**Return Arrival: Sunday, April 15th, at approximately 3:00 – 4:00 PM** – Church parking lot.

**Location: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Campground, 200 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, CA 92004**

**Cost: One price: $45 (30 / 15)** covers the cost of 1 dinner, 1 lunch, 2 breakfasts, camp fees, patch, and other program costs. **Please bring $45.00 CASH or CHECK to the troop meeting on Monday, March 18th, with the standard permission slip which can be found on the website.** All checks should be made out to “ BSA Troop 212”. **Bring money for lunch on Sunday.**

**Preparation: Will be announced at the troop meeting .**

**Uniform:** **Full uniform during auto travel on Friday and Sunday.**

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| **At a minimum**, the following items should be packed with owner’s name on them;   * Appropriate clothing and sleeping attire **(Day high; 60s°/Night low; 35 to 40°, check)** * Clothes suitable for cool temps during the day and warm clothes for night * Hoodie and thermals or fleece for sleeping * Brim Hat, Wide * Warm Jacket, ski cap, gloves for night * Sturdy hiking boots and extra socks * Sunglasses * Sleeping Bag, Wicking Layer, and Pad * Ground Cloth | * Daypack – with 10 essentials * Hydration pack or Canteen * Compass, approved as per demo * First Aid Kit, personal * Flashlight w/batteries * Matches, Flint, lighter, magnifying glass * Pencils, Pens, Notebook * Pocket Knife * Poncho * Rope – 10 Feet * Scout Handbook * 1 -2 Granola Bars * Insect Spray * Your brain | * Mess Kit (utensils, bowl, mug, etc) * Toothbrush & paste * Toiletries (comb, deodorant, soap, etc) * Sunscreen and Chapstick * Small towel * Toilet paper * Extra gum * Clear water bottle * Cotton, lint or other tinder * GPS device or smart phone   **Don’t go buy one!!** 2 or 3/patrol will suffice. |

We expect the days to be cool, and the **nights cold (maybe mid 30s).** Please bring warm clothes for the evening and separate clothes for sleeping. Check the weather the week of the trip.

Sunday lunch will be on the road. **Please send your scout with cash (~$10).**

We will need maximum parent and JASM participation to support the program.

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 John before the trip (refer to the ScoutTrack directory for phone numbers and or email information).

Yours in Scouting,

John Douglas, Scoutmaster

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