

BSA TROOP 212

COLORADO RIVER CANOE TRIP TO COTTONWOOD COVE MARINA

2021

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

The cost of this 3 days on the River adventure will be an estimated \$375.00 per person to cover the cost of River prepped food, souvenir patch, hotel stay the first night, with restaurant supper that night and restaurant breakfast the next day, Dam Launch Permit, vehicle parking and transport fees, rentals of canoes, paddles, life jackets, final night hotel room with showers, final night restaurant supper and restaurant breakfast the next day.

We believe this to be a reliable estimate, based on participant counts in the past, 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 along the way.

All RESERVATIONS require a \$50 DEPOSIT which will be collected on Monday, November 15th, and will be used to secure the various reservations out lined above and throughout this booklet.

BSA TROOP 212 ~ COLORADO RIVER CANOE TRIP ~ WINTER OF 2021

As you know, the Troop will canoe the Colorado River this December, during the school break. Properly qualified Scouts and Scouters' of our troop, Alumni and present Troop members, are welcome to take part in this river adventure, **AS LONG THEY ARE BSA REGISTERED, AND ATTEND THE PROPER AMOUNT OF SAFETY PRACTICE SESSIONS.** This booklet is the Guide for that trip. 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 7:30 AM, with plans to depart at 8:00 AM on December 26th. We will canoe early morning from the base of Hoover Dam on canoe day #1, the 27th, for 3 full days on the River, We will return to the same church parking lot on Monday, December 30th, about 3:00 PM. Updates on our return arrival time will be available by checking SPOT on our Website main page, OR my cell phone is 310-628-4312.

QUALIFICATIONS TO GO?

Anyone who is a BSA registered Scouter or active Scout with Troop 212 may come along. Registered Alumni of the Troop are also encouraged to participate. In addition, we require each participant to have as a minimum, pass the Summer Camp level swimming requirement, **or the equivalent**, as approved by the Scoutmaster. 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 32 degrees. Last time we did this adventure it dropped, uncharacteristically to only 40 degrees, and the year before to 28 degrees. SO...BE PREPERED this year for both conditions.

IS IT SAFE?

Fast water does not exist on this river adventure, although the river can be quite swift and challenging in several places, even some white caps, depending on Hoover Dam water release schedules and high winds possible when we cross Mojave Lake. 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?

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We believe this to be a reliable estimate, based on participant counts in the past, 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 along the way.

All RESERVATIONS require a \$50 DEPOSIT which will be collected on Monday, November 15th, and will be used to secure the various reservations out lined above.

Deposit payments ensure we will have a place for you because we are limiting this event to 14 canoes, which is 28 participants, due to the limit of the number of Hoover Dam Launch Permits allowed. 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. Of course, you may choose to pay the full balance due amount at any time by or before Dice 20th.

All BSA Medical Forms, if we do not have them currently on file, and 1 Troop Permission Slip per scout, and 1 Canoe Vendor Rental Agreement per person, will be collected on Monday, December 20 th, or

sooner if you have them. Copies of these blank forms will be available on our web page. If these payments, and all required forms, are not received by deadline, this may be treated as an automatic cancellation, with a probable loss of deposit monies. That now open spot will be 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 troop style on the River as part of the trip, and while staying at the hotel and marina. 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 lunch. All road traveling meals or snacks are NOT included in the above estimated cost of this trip. Travel fuel costs are also not part of this estimate. Individuals need to work this out with the drivers directly during the actual trip.

TRAVEL 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?

River maps may be handed out during training meetings, AND at the Trip Briefing Update Session on December 26th at 7 PM at the hotel.

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.

COVID POLICY AND PROCEDURES?

We expect everyone on the adventure, as in all in Scouting adventures, to follow the measures listed below, which are based on CDC guidance. We must also follow all federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance of the locations we will be visiting. Isolate if you are sick, and do not attend any activity/meeting/event if you, anyone you live with, or anyone you have recently been around feels unwell.

- Do not attend any activity/meeting/event if you or anyone you live with has been tested for COVID-19 or another illness and does not have the results back yet.
- If you are not fully vaccinated, wear a face covering or mask that covers your nose and mouth and stay at least 6 feet apart from people you don't live with.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- As always, please exhibit the Scout Oath and Law as we continue to navigate a safe return to the activities we enjoy.

Camping should only take place in accordance with guidelines outlined by our state and local health department and other local officials. There is no formal national policy on social distancing in tents, just as there is no prohibition on tenting alone if logistics can accommodate that request. As always, all BSA youth protection policies must be followed. For this adventure we plan on keeping room partners, canoe partners and tenting partners the same throughout, as best as we are able. All prices are based on double occupancies, so any demands for single accommodations will be met, if possible, and may have a higher trip cost associated with them.

We also encourage anyone whose medical condition or history has changed significantly since their last physical exam to get approval from their health care provider prior to attending this adventure.

Scouter Code of Conduct and relevant program safety and training requirements are still in place, e.g., Safe Swim Defense, Hazardous Weather, Wilderness First Aid, etc.

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.

BAGGAGE?

Ideally, for greater ease and comfort, all personal belongings, including your sleeping bag, should fit in one duffel bag, not to exceed 18" in diameter, 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 (water proofed), 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 AND cold nights)
- WATER-PROOF RAIN SUIT..... (Good 2 piece suit. Important!)
- AIR MATTRESS OR FOAM PAD.... (Watch bulk problems of these)
- SOCKS, WARM WOOL..... (For Camp shoes use)
- HAT, WIDE BRIM TYPE..... (For day use)
- WOOL CAP AND SCARF (for cold evening s)
- WARM SWEATER.....(for cold evening s).
- WARM OUTER COAT.....(for cold evening s)
- TENNIS SHOES..... (For WET use in canoe)
- CAMP SHOES..... (For DRY use at each camp site)
- LONG PANTS..... (2 pairs SUGGESTED)
- SUNGLASSES(Necessary to you)
- OTHER PERSONALS..... (Necessary to you)
- BAND AIDS & MEDS..... (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, MINIMUM, 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 tuff 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 participants wearing them will be rewarded, and should be worn while on the river and at river campsites.

MENU?

This trip we will be preparing a blending of dehydrated meals, canned foods, and frozen foods, using transportable propane stoves, and troop cooking pots. Each canoe will be assigned a LARGE gray plastic tub containing the River food and some kitchen equipment for preparing this food. Each canoe will also be assigned one or two pieces of other troop gear they are to keep track of and make available every evening at camp as well as pack up in the mornings. Examples of this might be the troop first aid kit, troop axe, troop saw, or troop rope for securing canoes, lanterns, propane, and a few roll up tables. Lunches on the River will be prepared on your own in either a central beach lunch area, or in your canoe while traveling, depending on water and weather conditions or beach landing availability. River supper and breakfast meals will be prepared "all canoe teams" style, in a central kitchen area on each beach we camp on.

MEAL TIMES?

We plan on breakfast at about 7AM while on the River, and at 6:00 AM while at the Marina and 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 4:30 PM, 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?

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 personal utensils...basins with wash water will be provided in the kitchen area. The group breakfast/supper preparation pots/utencils will be washed out by the various food prep Canoe teams.

DRINKING WATER/

We do not filter the River water for any consumption or washing use. Each Canoe Team will be assigned 2 five-gallon water jugs for the full trip for group use.

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, most of you will 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 during the final payment submittal of December 20 th or sooner.

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 Terrie Haynes.

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. Several of you will meet at the Scoutmasters house (Alley way in the back) on Sunday, December 19 at 12:00 PM, to prepare troop gear required for the trip. This meeting on the 19 th may be modified at the last minute, depending on how many pickup trucks and actual trip participants 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. Some canoes may the roll up tables or propane tanks. Each team will be responsible for their own tent set up and lunch on the river. The breakfast/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?

A 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 HAM 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 note that Hoover Dam security will ask everyone 18 years old and older to present their driver lisc for examination. 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 TWO SAFETY PRACTICE SESSIONS at the Sea Scout Base, at a cost of \$12.00 per person, from 7:30 AM for check in, with program to begin at 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon, Saturday Dec 4 and Saturday Dec 11. Both 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 two 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 at BOTH safety sessions is strongly encouraged. Any of our Troop 212 Scouts or Scouters may attend these sessions even if they do not plan to go on the week long December River trip just for fun, or to earn the Canoeing MB. The Scoutmaster is the MB Counselor.

We will collect the ONE permission slip for each of these practice dates, since these are used to log in payments received. This standard troop 212 version permission slip, and fees of \$12.00 per person , per session, collected efficiently that morning at 7:30 AM, should not sacrifice any of our practice time, which begins promptly at 8:00 AM . Please remember to arrive in clothes and shoes that are able to get wet, because you will be dunking the canoes, probably swimming in your cloths, and wading in the water to enter the canoes. All participants are expected to perform their fair share of proper canoe clean up and storage before leaving for

home. Feel free to bring your own paddle if you wish. Please don't forget towels, canteen, and sunscreen, as well as spare dry clothes for the trip home. .

GEAR WEIGH-IN & GEAR CHECK MEETING?

In a way, the trip begins before we depart from the Church parking lot on the 26th. We say this because on the Monday December 20rd 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. 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 any corrective action.

TRIP ITINERARY

The first day, December 26th, Team 1 will travel 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, 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 (the Hoover Dam Lodge) . 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, to ensure plenty of rest for the rigorous days ahead.

The next day, the 27th, will be Team 1's 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 7:45 AMLaunch Check In Site of 8:00 AM above the Dam for our 9 AM launch time. We will be given only 45 minutes to actually load/launch the canoes by the waters edge, 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) The first, and pretty much the last, civil bathroom will be found at Willow Beach Marina much later in the day. We will camp at a local palm tree park on the left side of the River, just 100 yards downstream from the Marina, OR about 2 miles downstream from the 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 12 to 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 inside the canoes. We will be on the River all day, occasionally 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 4:30 PM, and clean up completed by 5:00 PM, as it begins to get dark and colder. Most of the day you will be at the bottom of some very high Peta Cliffs, a familiar site when traveling thru canyons of this type.

The next day, the 28th, 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 18 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 4:30 PM, and clean up completed by 5:00 PM, as it begins to get dark and colder. Most of the day you will be in very open areas enjoying long vistas, with cliffs on our left and open beaches on our right.

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 is often the left side. We often stop out of the wind on the left side later that morning for a break from the wind. This is where the Long Beach practice sessions really pay off if we observe white cap water. Some years this portion of the trip has had no wind. We are traveling only 11 miles this day, and we are looking for Cottonwood 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, shower, have supper at 6 PM in the town of Searchlight, NV.

The next day, the 30th, after an early morning breakfast in town get into our vehicles at about 8:00 AM, and head for home.

About three hours later we will be stopping in Barstow for lunch. You should have your lunch money in your pockets, and NOT in the packed 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 PM. Updates on our return arrival time will be available by checking SPOT on our Website , by clicking the SPOT logo is on the troop's Home Page, OR my cell phone is 310-628-4312.

CANOE LOADING WHILE ON THE WATER?

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.

-END-