

Troop 212, Winter Backpack Trip, January 21-22 To the top of San Jacinto and beyond.....

- Cost:** **\$32.00 (\$20.00 / \$12.00)** This Payment does not cover the \$30.00 round-trip tram ride to the top of San Jacinto, which each person will purchase on their own upon arrival. Payment covers 1 trail dinner and 1 trail breakfast, and permits, NOT Saturday trail lunch, which you need to provide. The \$12 is for gas). **Please bring \$32.00 to the troop meeting on Monday, January 16, with the standard permission slip** which can be found on the website.
- Departure:** **Saturday, January 21 at 5:30 Check In, 6:00 AM departure** – Church parking lot. Please arrive promptly before departure for quick visual pack inspection and vehicle loading. Be sure to have **filled canteens** or hydration packs for the hike before you leave home
- Return:** **Sunday, January 22 , at approximately 4:00 PM,** back at Church Parking Lot. Please do not depart for home until all the troop gear has been accounted for.

After we depart the church, we will drive to the Palm Springs area to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway which will take approximately 2 hours. We will park at the base of the mountain and board the tram. Mt. San Jacinto sits above the Palm Springs area. As you take the tram up, you will go from the desert to the forest which is in the middle of winter. The tram will take you up an additional 6000 feet to an elevation of 8, 516 feet. From the top, you will hike to our camp site in Round Valley, which is approximately 2.5 miles from the tram stop. Tamarack camp sits at the base of Mt. San Jacinto. This will be our Base Camp location. Capable and experienced hikers will have the option to leave their backpacks at base camp, and be able to day hike further depending on the condition of the trail. Based on current information, the trail is clear but there is approximately 4" of snow in Tamarack. Tamarack does have outhouses. There is no water available other than snow melting. We will have to carry in our hiking water. Another option is for the hikers to build a snow shelter, and, if safely constructed, sleep in it that night.

The hike to Tamarack Base Camp, while not long, does have an elevation gain of 700 feet. It is a hike for experienced hikers when carrying a backpack. Daytime temperatures are expected to be in the low 40s but well below freezing at night. Be prepared for sun, snow, wet, and cold.

For this trip, troop packs will be handed out at the Monday meeting, January 16th. Also on the 16th, we will be collecting money and permission slips. On Thursday, January 19, our standard mandatory final "bag check" will be held at the church at 7pm, on the porch by our storage room, where we will also distribute the backpacking food for Saturday supper, and Sunday breakfast, stoves, fuel, and our special winter class 3 person tents, enabling hikers to finish loading their packs before we depart early (and rapidly) Saturday morning...Each Scout will be responsible for their own Saturday lunch.

As a minimum, the following items should be **packed in a backpack** (NO black duffel bags):

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| ☞ Appropriate clothing
(Day low 40° s/Night mid-20's) | ☞ Ground Cloth | ☞ Warm Jacket |
| ☞ Brim Hat and warm hat for nighttime | ☞ Poncho/Rain Gear | ☞ Matches or lighter |
| ☞ Pocket Knife | ☞ Daypack | ☞ Pencils, Pens, Notebook |
| ☞ Flashlight (small is best) | ☞ Small baggy of Handy-wipes, Toothbrush & paste | ☞ The "thing" you forgot last time |
| ☞ Sunscreen and Chapstick | ☞ Toilet paper & trowel | ☞ Warm Sleeping Bag and Pad |
| ☞ First Aid Kit | ☞ 2 liters of water min for hiking | ☞ Wicking layer |
| ☞ Compass | ☞ Mess Kit (utensils, bowl, mug, etc) | ☞ Sunglasses |
| ☞ Hiking boots, extra socks | ☞ Gloves | ☞ BAG LUNCH for Saturday |
| | ☞ Whistle and watch | ☞ Money for Sunday lunch |

We also suggest snow bibs and gaiter for those hikers that own them. Please keep in mind each scout has an option to borrow a troop walking stick, and snow crampons. A full backpack should weigh a bit more than the last BP trip in order to better prepared for the cold. A good target weight would be no more than one-fourth the weight of the scout carrying it and remember to plan for carrying your share of food and troop gear distributed Thursday evening.

John Douglas