

# Troop 212 – Marooned on Catalina

Aug 2023

Dear Scouts and Scouters,

Since we are a High Adventure troop and with an eye towards “being prepared”, on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, we are going on a three hour boat ride to Catalina Island where we are going to “maroon” our scouts on a remote beach on the island to see how they will survive in the wild for a night. During the next few Troop Meetings, the Junior Leaders will be conducting education demonstrations for the basic survival skills everyone who ventures into the outdoors should understand and be fully prepared for this adventure. This will include:

1. **Fire** – Fire is the king of survival techniques! 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.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **Food/Water** – Food/Water are vital towards your survival. Ration your sweat not your water intake.
5. **First Aid** – First Aid as a survival technique is not just the basic medical needs, it is the primary way in which you act to survive. DO NOT PANIC, remain calm and do what you have to do to take care of YOU. STOP means Sit, Think, Observe, and Plan.

Please pack all necessary gear into a daypack, soft backpack as we will be simulating survival conditions. Make sure your gear is packed in waterproof bags in an attempt to keep as much of your gear as dry as possible because all your gear will be tossed into the water and most likely drug across the sandy beach as if you were truly marooned or shipwrecked. A well packed bag would also serve as a handy floatation aid or you could bring a small piece of rope, where you can drag the pack behind you as you swim to shore. There is no loading dock at the beach site, so it is up to you to try and keep your gear as clean and dry as possible.

Since we are going to be marooned, there is no need to go food shopping as a group...participants will be responsible for their own food and water this trip. Catching, cleaning and cooking fish for supper is encouraged, but should not be counted on with any certainty. Lunch will be served group style on board the boats during the return cruise time on Sunday. The open air beach campsite will be primitive, so the scouts are encouraged to pack using the list below, and anything else a prepared scout can think of for the adventure. As part of the program, there may be some MRE food rations hidden on the island or possibly washed ashore during the shipwreck, along with some other ancillary items to help the scouts cope during the marooned adventure. It should be an exciting and educational experience, so we hope you can join us.

Word of Caution; As much fun as this sounds, this trip is not for everyone. There will be no bathrooms, no shelters for shade, no fresh water, and the troop will **not** be providing troop tents, lexan food boxes, wood cook boxes or any other gear from troop storage. It will be hot days and cool nights, all you will have is what you bring in your pack. More detailed instructions will be shared with the boys during the Monday meetings leading up to the excursion.

We will be using the two private sailboats at the Long Beach Yacht Club (Long Dock), captained by Mr. Brownett, and Mr. Talbot, for transport to Cabrillo Harbor Private Beach at Catalina. We will be loading personal gear and troop gear onto the sailboats, on Friday, August 25 at 6:00 pm and then you will be heading home to sleep comfortably in your own bed for the night. We will meet back at the Long Beach Yacht Club the next morning, Saturday, August 26 at 6:00 am sharp and will be departing for a three hour boat ride.

The uniform for this event is Class B t-shirt, hat, swim trunks, sunscreen, and water shoes. All participants should expect to get wet when departing the boat for the beach shoreline.

**Loading Meeting:** Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM – Long Beach Yacht Club (Long Dock) For gear loading, please be prompt. **Long Beach Yacht Club** (<https://bit.ly/2VIOmWB>)

**Boat Departure:** Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 AM – Same parking lot. Please arrive promptly to load up and do a quick safety check and boat will leave no later than 6:30a.

**Return Arrival:** Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 3:00 PM – Same parking lot. Watch SPOT as we return home.

**Cost:** Please bring \$45.00 per person, CASH or CHECK, to the troop meeting on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, with the standard permission slip which can be found on the website. (\$35.00 per person to cover the cost of camp fees, plus \$10 for Sunday lunch.) There is no extended deadline past 9 PM on the 21<sup>th</sup>. All checks need to be made out to "BSA Troop 212".

Space on this trip is limited to 28 participants, so sign up, submit the completed Permission Slip, and pay on time. If we fill up during final enrollment on the 21<sup>th</sup>, and want to attend this trip, you can request to be placed on the "stand by" list, in the event of any last minute cancellations. We must have two deep adult leadership for this trip as a minimum, but depending on enrollments on the 21<sup>th</sup>, some adults may be asked to step down and not attend this trip to make more room for, interested Scouts.

And of course, as in any BSA water event, for safety, an additional qualification to attend this trip is having passed the BSA swim test, or equivalent swim capable certification, as determined by the Scoutmaster. Life vests will be used this trip. While the troop owns some, and the boats have some, we will need those of you that have your own life vest to bring them ( ensure your name is on them.)

We expect the days to be quite warm, but the nights will be a little chilly. Please bring warm clothes for the evening. Fishing gear on this adventure is allowed, as long as you have your proper California Fishing License with you. We will have a five watt Ham radio with us to be in touch with the transport boat, and we will have SPOT with us, so families can monitor our return transport progress for timely Sunday pick up in Long Beach. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**At a minimum**, the following items should be packed with owners name on them;

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate clothing<br><b>(Day high ; 85°/Night low; 55°)</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Spray  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brim Hat, Wide   | <input type="checkbox"/> Matches   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Towel  | <input type="checkbox"/> Disposable Mess Kit (utensils, bowl,<br>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<br>at home)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry clothes for evening   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen and Chapstick  | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter or tent, no troop tents<br>provided   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper   | <input type="checkbox"/> Light blanket/folded sheet/sleeping<br>bag liner, or sleeping bag, but it<br>must fit in your daypack/backpack. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Light jacket   |  |

Yours in Scouting,

John Douglas  
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