

DESERT TRIATHLON

November 17-19, 2023

Are YOU up for a Seeking Adventure Challenge? Join us for the Desert Triathlon in Calico!

This year's course will have three stages: running, shooting, and biking. You will use your Scout skills to advance through the check-points along the route. This is a timed event so speed counts! We will be conducting a safety session early in the morning, before the actual events. This is mandatory attendance for all riders.

On the first leg of the triathlon, you will run approximately one mile, partly on a well-traveled dirt road and the partly along a trail on the ridge of a small mountain range next to camp. The course will be a combination hard-packed dirt, loose gravel, and sand, with sections that are uphill, downhill, and level.

The second leg of the triathlon will be a simple skills test coupled with BB gun shooting. You will be required to shoot away fully a clay pigeon from the distance of 15 feet, before you can move on to the next event. But first, you must reveal the target by tying a scout knot, as specified by the onsite Event Judge. The specified knot could be any one of the five required for Tenderfoot and Second Class ranks. Be Prepared!

The third and final leg of the triathlon will be the biking portion, roughly 2 miles on a dirt road. Along this route, you will encounter a bicycle parts knowledge challenge. The parts of a bicycle part can found in any Cycling Merit Badge book. Once the challenge is completed, you will ride to the finish line.

The winners will be those with the shortest overall times, as determined by the Finish Line judges. Winners will be announced at the campfire Saturday night.

You will need a mountain or BMX style bike for this type of terrain. Road or Urban/Hybrid style bikes will not function on this event due to their skinny tires. The troop has several mountain bikes that can be shared by all scouts in need of a bike. You may also arrange to borrow a friend's bikes. Please do a safety inspection on your bike before the trip to be sure it is in safe working order. **A properly fitted bike helmet will be mandatory to participate.** The Troop has a very limited supply of helmets to loan. We strongly recommend that the riders wear gloves, elbow guards, and kneepads.

Saturday Afternoon Exploration

Mid afternoon, the troop will travel by vehicle on rough dirt roads to a famous, defunct mine. There, we will inspect and investigate the remaining facilities of the mine. Are you up for a little detective archaeology? High atop a mountain, we will be afforded excellent views of the Calico area as the sun sets in the west.

Saturday Evening

In addition to the traditional campfire, Saturday evening offers the opportunity for a Board of Review. Are YOU ready to advance to the next rank? Make preparations NOW!

Sunday Morning Challenge: FEAR FACTOR!

Can you stare down your fear on Troop 212's notorious FEAR FACTOR? Can YOU take it to the next level? Will YOU ride the plank to victory?

IMPORTANT NOTES

The State of California has enacted legislation that prohibits any person from furnishing, loaning, or otherwise providing a minor any BB firing device, firearm or live ammunition without the express permission of a parent or legal guardian. It is necessary for you to give consent for your child to participate in any shooting sports activities. Please complete the Permission Slip FULLY.

No scout is to pack his own BB rifle in his gear. Troop 212 will provide BB rifles and eye protection for this event. BSA mandates that scouts may not personally transport BB rifles

Weather: This is a late fall camping trip so be prepared for moderate days and cold evenings. Expected daytime Highs in the 60's; nights in the low 40's. It is usually windy! Dress appropriately!

Send lunch money with your scout. We will be leaving Calico on Sunday around 12 noon. The Troop will stop for lunch along the way home

We should arrive at the church parking lot around 4PM. Please check Spot for travel updates.

Each driver is to bring two 5-gallon water jugs (owned by the troop), since there is no water in camp.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, November 13th: Bring CASH or CHECK in the amount of **\$50.00** per person to cover program costs, travel fuel, and food for 4 meals, to include 1 lunch, 1 supper, and 2 breakfasts. All checks made out to "BSA Troop 212".

Thursday, November 16th at 7:00pm: Food Shopping at Stater Brothers.

Friday, November 17th at 7:00pm: Meet at Church Parking Lot

Sunday, November 19th at approximately 4:00PM: Return to the Church Parking Lot

PERSONAL GEAR TO BRING

At a minimum, pack the following items **with the owner's name on them:**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Small towel | <input type="checkbox"/> Soap and comb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wide brim hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Matches or flint | <input type="checkbox"/> Proper footwear for the events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compass, approved as per demo | <input type="checkbox"/> Mess kit (utensils, bowl, mug, etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit, personal | <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils, pens, notebook | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunblock and Chap-stick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket knife | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ground cloth | <input type="checkbox"/> Brain | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush & paste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handy-wipes | <input type="checkbox"/> Rope – 10 feet | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm jacket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydration pack, canteen, bike bottle | <input type="checkbox"/> Scout handbook | <input type="checkbox"/> Long underwear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small day pack | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag and insulated pad | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike patch kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike helmet | <input type="checkbox"/> Bug Repellant |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Elbow & knee Pads |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Poncho | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Participation in the timed triathlon is 100% optional and all troop members are invited to attend this trip. You also have the option to go through the course just for fun without competing. This is a fantastic opportunity to explore and camp in the desert when it is cool and to have fun being with your friends.

This will be a fun and safe Scouting activity, in part due to the assistance of attending adults. Come join us for a blast of a weekend!

Yours in Scouting,
John Douglas