

## Troop 212, Spring Backpacking Trip, May 18-19, 2018

The May backpacking adventure will take us to the rugged and beautiful Sespe Wilderness. This trip is designed for beginning backpackers with an optional, more difficult leg for the advanced backpackers in the troop. This trip will traverse through part of the San Gabriel Fault zone with spectacular geological features, California Condor territory (keep your eyes open for this magnificent and largest North American bird in the vulture family), chances to dip in the Sespe River, not to mention the infinite number of stars at night. You will also see first-hand the fearsome destructive power of the raging 2018 Thomas Fire that burned hundreds of homes and thousands of acres of open land.

Our journey will begin on **Saturday 6:00 AM**, meeting at the church, in Class B uniforms, for a 2-3 hour drive into the southern part of the Sespe Wilderness, located north of Ojai, just northeast of Ventura. Backpackers will need to identify one of two separate vehicle convoys: the **Main Troop Hiking** group and the **Advanced Hiking** group (see details below). The starting points for these two groups are different so each backpacker will need to position himself/herself in the correct vehicle. Each backpacker will need to supply a personal lunch for Saturday, trail snacks for both Saturday and Sunday, and sufficient water for Saturday's hike into camp. Check with your Jr. Leaders on the correct amount for your chosen trip.

The **Main Troop Hiking** group will drive through Ojai, through some of the most spectacular 2018 Thomas Fire destruction, to the Piedra Blanca trailhead; elevation about 3000 feet above sea level. The trail is an easy-to-walk path that follows Sespe River for 7.4 miles to Oak Flat Camp at 2800 feet. Along the way, there are multiple opportunities to cross the river, enjoy the spectacular scenery and geological wonders of the area. Return to the vehicles on Sunday is simply retracing your steps. Total distance for both days is 14.8 miles. The **Main Troop Hiking** excursion is a wonderful, relatively easy trip to enjoy the company of friends, old and new.

The **Advanced Hiking** group will drive through Fillmore and up the winding road to Dough Flat trailhead at 2841 ft. The trail to the evening camp starts with a moderately difficult climb following the Alder Creek ascending 840ft., then descending 1300 ft. in some eight miles, and finally pushing upstream the final four miles to into camp. Day 1 concludes at around 16 miles at a camp to be selected along the Sespe River. On Sunday, the backpacking continues **up** the Sespe River some 4 miles to Oak Flat where the main troop camped for the night. The group will then proceed to the Piedra Blanca trailhead, another 7.4 miles to the return transportation. The total distance for the Advanced Hiking group over the two days is about 26.8 miles. Any scout in T212 is welcome to join the advanced backpacking group with permission from Sebastian and Noah, the Jr. Leaders responsible for this trip.

Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, monies and permission slips will be collected. Also, backpacks can be checked from the Quartermasters for those who need to borrow one. On Thursday, May 17, our standard mandatory final "bag check" will be held at the church at 7pm, room location to be determined. At this time, we will distribute the backpacking food for Saturday supper, and Sunday breakfast, stoves, fuel, tents, and maps thereby enabling hikers to finish loading their packs before we depart Saturday morning. Each backpacker will be responsible for his/her own Saturday lunch and weekend snacks.

Daytime temperatures are expected to be in the mid-60's to 80's so brim hats and sunscreen are imperative. However, it could be cool at night – in the high 40's – BE PREPARED. Weather updates will be issued on Monday (13<sup>th</sup>) and Thursday (17<sup>th</sup>) by Sebastian and Noah, Trip/Theme leaders for this event. This is a Class B uniform only event. Leave your official uniforms home and be ready to hike from the vehicles.

**Important Note:** Sespe Creek experienced abnormally high water this year due to the rains. Up to ten water crossings must be accomplished through knee-deep water. All backpackers should be prepared to walk through deep water by having appropriate clothing and footwear, IN ADDITION TO your regular hiking boots. A walking staff or trekking pole is highly recommended. The Troop has a limited supply of poles/staffs but not enough for everyone. Your pack should be properly waterproofed in the event that you must carry it through deep water. Information on this issue will be given by the SPL and his staff during the Monday meetings. A last minute update on the water conditions will be issued on Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Important Days and Costs:

**\$25 / 10** covers 1 trail dinner and trail breakfast + \$10 for gas. **Please bring \$25 cash/check to the troop meeting on Monday, May 13th, with the troop permission slip**, which can be found on the website. Troop packs will be checked out at this meeting for those who need to borrow a troop pack.

**Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM:** our standard mandatory "bag check" will be held at the church at 7pm, room location to be determined, where we will distribute the backpacking food, stoves, fuel, tents, and maps enabling hikers to finish loading their packs for final weigh-in.

**Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 AM:** Church parking lot. Please arrive promptly before departure for a quick visual pack inspection and vehicle loading. (A scout is Courteous!)

**Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 4:00-5:00 PM:** Return to the church parking lot. Do not leave the church until all troop gear has been accounted for and your SPL has dismissed you.

### Equipment:

As a minimum, the following items should be packed in a backpack (NO black duffel bags). Be sure to save room and weight for your share of group gear. Remember: your TOTAL pack weight should be no more than 25% of your body weight. Keep the weight down and have a great time!

<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate clothing (Day mid-70's/Night-40's) <input type="checkbox"/> Brim Hat and warm hat for night time <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking boots, extra socks <input type="checkbox"/> <b>closed-toed shoes/saddles for crossing water</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking staff, trekking pole <input type="checkbox"/> Poncho/Rain Gear <input type="checkbox"/> water bottles or camelback – 2 liters minimum, 3 liters for advanced group	<input type="checkbox"/> Whistle <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Map (troop will provide) <input type="checkbox"/> Compass <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket Knife <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper & trowel <input type="checkbox"/> Matches or Flint <input type="checkbox"/> Rope – 10 Feet <input type="checkbox"/> bug repellent <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen and Chapstick <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils, Pens, Notebook	<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight (small is best) <input type="checkbox"/> Warm Jacket <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Bag and Pad <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Cloth <input type="checkbox"/> Mess Kit (utensils, bowl, mug, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Small baggy of Handy-wipes, Toothbrush & paste <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Small towels <input type="checkbox"/> Tent (single or to share) <input type="checkbox"/> stove (to share) <input type="checkbox"/> Money for Sunday lunch
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### **Important Driver Note:**

The Piedra Blanca trailhead parking lot requires each vehicle to display the National Forest Service “ADVENTURE PASS” (or “America The Beautiful Pass”). THERE IS NO PLACE TO PURCHASE THIS PASS ON-SITE OR ALONG THE WAY. You must purchase it before leaving. The pass costs \$30 and is valid for 12 months from the month of purchase; a “Second Car” pass is available for an additional \$5. It is suggested that two drivers split the \$35 and obtain both. Conveniently, any BIG-5 sells the pass. NOTE: This same pass was required for the Baden Powel day-hike the week prior. It is also the same pass that was used on the May 2018 hike and campout. If you purchased the pass last May, it is probably still valid. The drivers for this trip will confer on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to ensure we have sufficient number of Adventure Passes.

John Douglas