

BSA Troop 768

Colorado River Trip

Dear Scouts and Parents,

The material contained in this packet contains information about the next troop outing. The trip is scheduled for February 12 – 15 and will take place at the Colorado River between Walters Camp and Squaw Lake.

Please read the contents of this packet very carefully. It explains the trip, fee budget, and necessary equipment. The shore party is open to family camping see details inside.

The three meetings prior to the trip will contain very important information on safety, how to pack, and trip itinerary. There is a mandatory swim test for all persons paddling on the river. This will be scheduled as the pool becomes available.

Should you have any questions please contact the outing trek leaders.

Steve Kakacek
River

David Easterling
Kevin McNulty
Shore Party

General Information

Qualifications

All scouts First Class and above are eligible to paddle on the river. This is done for safety reasons, as the rank of First Class requires the scout to display all the basic scout skills needed for the weekend. Everyone who wishes to enter the water in a canoe or otherwise as a scout must pass a BSA swim test prior to departure.

Canoes and Canoe Partners

We will be renting the canoes from a local provider and driving them to the river. They come with plastic paddles and Life Vests. The paddles are very often in poor condition and it first come first served with sizing. Therefore if you wish to have a properly sized paddle it is recommended that you purchase a wooden paddle. They can be purchased from Sports Chalet and other sporting goods stores (call before you drive) or on line at www.basspro.com (about 12.00 – 17.00 ea. On line). The life vests are the large orange type, if you wish to bring your own ski type vest you may as long as you can clearly read the Coast Guard label on the inside of the vest.

The canoes will each be manned by a two (2) man crew. Once you and your partner choose your canoe it is your responsibility for the entire trip. No switching of canoes or partners will be permitted without adult permission. The canoe partners will be responsible for paddling, cooking and camping together, each will be made up of two scouts or two adults. There will be no scout adult canoe partners.

Itinerary

We will depart from the church at approximately 6:00PM on Friday the 12th of February. The river trip will begin from Walters Camp and proceed down river to Squaw Lake (approximately 50 miles). We will camp along the river for two nights. This will be primitive camping, once we leave Walters Camp no water or facilities will be available until Monday afternoon, so be prepared. Sunday afternoon lunch will be a “float lunch” so plan accordingly. Sunday night dinner will be provided and prepared by the adults as part of the trip. Monday is a short day on the river and we should arrive at Squaw Lake by around 11:00AM. The troop will arrive back at the church on Monday the 15th at around 6:00PM in the evening.

Adult on the River

The adults on the river have the responsibility to insure the trip is conducted safely. They have the responsibility and have the authority to correct problems on the spot. On this trip parents should avoid reprimanding their own scouts. Have another adult handle the situation whenever possible or even better have a senior scout handle the situation.

Rules of the River and Statement of Understanding

The rules of the river are included in this packet and should be read and understood by all. The **Statements of Understanding and Compliance** must be signed and turned in prior to our departure.

Paddle Decorating Contest

A paddle-decorating contest will be conducted on Saturday afternoon during the lunch stop on the river. The paddles should be decorated prior to arriving on the river and must be owned by the participant. Prizes will be awarded for the top three (3) scout paddles and the best adult paddle. A wooden paddle is recommended for this since paint will not “stick and stay” on plastic paddles very well.

Spending Money

There may be a chance for the scouts to purchase snacks only on the way to and from the river. Spending money will be the responsibility of the scout.

Shore Party

The shore party is planned for those scouts who do not yet qualify to paddle on the river. The shore party will be lead by David Easterling and Kevin McNulty and will camp at (TBA). Everyone will arrive at Walters Camp on Friday evening and once those paddling the river have left the shore party will continue on to their campground. Families are welcome to attend and camp with the scouts in tents or motor homes. However, the scouts will be tent camping in patrols and using the patrol method for meals. The scouts will be working on advancements and two (2) or more canoes will be available for their use. The same “Rules of the River” apply to the shore party with respect to the canoes. The scouts will have the same Sunday night dinner arraignment as those on the river.

Cost

The budget is \$75.00 per boy at this time. The correct fee will be established after we have a firm head count for the trip.

Rules of the River

1. All Scouts and adults while paddling or riding in a canoe must wear life jackets (PDF).
2. Whistles must be worn at all times by each scout and adult while in a canoe for emergency signaling purposes.
3. All scouts and adults must comply with the following signals:
 - **One (1) blast** – all canoes must slow down
 - **Two (2) blasts** – all canoes must go immediately to the nearest shore and wait for instructions.
 - **Three (3) blasts - EMERGENCY!!!** Canoe has turned over. Help if you are near otherwise go immediately to the nearest shore and wait for further instructions.
4. Buddy canoe will be established and must remain together at all times while on the river.
5. Each canoe team is responsible for the canoe immediately behind them.
6. Canoes must be kept a safe distance from shorelines to avoid dead heads (submerged trees and rocks), logs, trees, ect.

7. Closed toed shoes must be worn at all times on land and in the canoe.
8. The bowman and the stern man must remain seated or kneeling at all times facing forward and watching for hazards.
9. Water fighting may take place under adult supervision only. There shall be no water balloons or water bags used on the river. There shall be no water fighting on Saturday.

Any infraction or non-compliance with the rules of the river could lead to being taken off the river for the remainder of the trip. The scout's parents will be contacted and asked to pick their scout up.

Suggested Packing List

- ❑ Three (3) plastic buckets with lids (lids must have rubber gasket in order to be watertight). These will be used to carry your gear in the canoe.
- ❑ Old Pair of closed toed shoes for water
- ❑ Clean pair closed toed shoes for land
- ❑ Rain gear or poncho
- ❑ Winter jacket or parka
- ❑ Sleeping bag and insulite pad
- ❑ Long sleeved warm shirt
- ❑ Toilet paper in Ziploc bag
- ❑ Sun block
- ❑ Personal First Aid Kit
- ❑ Personal Toilet Kit
- ❑ Flashlight with extra batteries and bulb
- ❑ Tent (one (1) per three boys troop tents will be available upon request)
- ❑ At least one (1) complete change of clothes including underwear and socks
- ❑ Towel
- ❑ Matches
- ❑ Gloves for paddling and warmth
- ❑ Mess Kit including cup, knife, fork, and spoon
- ❑ One (1) backpack stove per canoe team
- ❑ Pocket knife
- ❑ Insect Repellant
- ❑ Hats – one (1) watch cap and one (1) with a brim for sun
- ❑ Sun glasses
- ❑ Swimming suit
- ❑ Tarp (to cover gear in your canoe)
- ❑ 20ft nylon rope – thin (to secure your gear in your canoe)
- ❑ 4 large garbage bags
- ❑ **Water – 2 Gallons Each MINIMUM**
- ❑ Whistle – Must be worn at all times on the river (buy two just in case)
- ❑ Lawn chair
- ❑ Complete change of clothes in a plastic bag with your name on it (including clean socks and underwear). This will be left with the shore party so that when we arrive on Monday we will have clean, dry clothes to ride home in.

Optional

- ❑ Small Cooler (one (1) per canoe)
- ❑ Fishing gear (16 and up must have license with Colorado River Sticker)
- ❑ Camera
- ❑ Sport equipment (football, Frisbee, ect)

Statement of Understanding and Compliance

Scouts Statement

I hereby acknowledge that I have read, understand and will comply with the established rules of the river. I further agree that should I not abide by these rules that I can be taken off the river and my parents summoned to take me home.

Scouts Signature

Date

Parents Statement

I hereby acknowledge my own understanding of the rules of the river for troop 768's Colorado River Trip. I further state that I have discussed these rules with my son and I fully support these rules and the consequences of noncompliance.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please Return to Trip Coordinator Prior to Departure.