

# Camping/Activities Corner

## October – December 2007

Camping Department:

HVSR:

Weekend Camping is still available, call the camping department to check on availability.

### New for 2008

#### Klondike Derby

February 22-24, 2008

Cost: \$60 per person

Calling all troops and patrols to compete in a sled team race!

Trask:

#### NOVA Weekend – October 12-14, 2007

Cost: \$65 per scout/\$35 per adult

This weekend is for first year scouts.

#### Scout Craft Weekend – October 19-21, 2007

Cost: \$65 per scout/\$35 per adult

Scout can work on 1 or 2 badges this weekend.

Merit badges being offered:

- Pioneering
- Leatherwork
- Indian Lore
- Metalwork
- Orienteering
- Woodcarving
- Basketry

#### Shooting Sports Weekend – November 2-4, 2007

Cost: \$65 per scout/\$35 per adult

Merit badges offered: (scout can only work on one)

- Archery
- Rifle Shooting
- Shotgun Shooting (14 years old and up)

#### Shoot for the Stars – November 30- December 2, 2007

\*Astronomy \*Space Exploration

Cost: \$65 per scout/ \$35 per adult

Scout will work on both merit badges this weekend.

#### Merit Badge Weekend – December 27-30, 2007

- cit in nation
- cit in world
- environmental science
- first aid
- fish and wildlife management
- forestry
- nature
- plant science

Cost: \$95 per scout/ \$55 per adult

Scouts can work on two merit badges during this event.

#### Polar Bear Swim – December 1, 2007

Cost: \$5 per person – everyone welcome!

Bring your swimsuit and towel.

### Program Fliers

All 2008 Program Fliers will be available November 1<sup>st</sup> at both Smiser and Eastside and on our Website.

### 2010 Camp Cherry Valley Sign-ups!

San Gabriel Valley units can reserve their spot at CCV for 2010 starting on October 1st. Forms will be mailed to all of our Scoutmasters, just send it back with your \$200 deposit.

### 2008 Holcomb Valley Sign-ups!

San Gabriel Valley units can reserve their spot at Holcomb for 2008 starting October 1st. Forms will be mailed to all of our Scoutmasters, just send it back with your \$200 deposit.

*It's not too late !! Your Troop or Pack can still earn up to 40% commission for program or equipment thru Popcorn Sales.*

*For additional information contact your District Executive.*

### Troop 21 High Sierra Trip. (7/7 – 7/9/2007)

As a continuation of our backpacking Merit Badge program, Troop 21 did a 3 day, 2 night backpacking trip to the Cottonwood Lakes area of the Sierra Nevada in early July. All scouts had previous backpacking experience that included two treks last summer, so we only set up a minimal training schedule for this summer. The highlight of training was Mt. San Jacinto Peak, an 11 mile out and back day hike to the 10,834' summit.



This was an easier hike than last year's Sierra trek, with slightly less mileage and considerably less elevation gain. But as it turned out, the

raw elevation (starting at 10,000') and 1<sup>st</sup> night camp at 11,200' proved to be more of a challenge than we thought it would be! The Cottonwood Lakes area is interesting because it is right at the tree line. There are stands of trees that make good campsites everywhere, yet there are great, unobstructed views of the high granite walls and peaks all around. Navigating the area can be a little challenging, so good map, compass and route finding skills are important.

Since the hike in wasn't a terribly demanding one, we loaded up on fresh food for the 1<sup>st</sup> night and put together a great dinner with



chicken fajitas and other assorted goodies.

Since 2007 has been a year of extremely low rainfall, we crossed many dry streambeds along the way. The good news was that there were very few mosquitoes, so we could stay out late after dinner and enjoy the stars without being dinner for the little pests.

Day 2 had us split into 2 groups. One group, the lake group, was going to check out Muir Lake as a possible campsite for the 2<sup>nd</sup> night. Group 2, the peak group would make a 5:30 AM start to bag Mt. Langley Peak: One of the "easier" 14,000 ft. peaks in the Sierras.



The Muir Lake group found Muir Lake to be one of the most beautiful lakes in the area and a great place for setting up camp. The "peak baggers" found that even an "easy" fourteener wasn't that easy. We all found ourselves back together in the mid-afternoon, just in time for a "refreshing" swim in Cottonwood Lake #5. Brrrr!

We adult leaders were gratified to watch these scouts in action. Setting up camp, treating water, cooking, joking around and having fun. All 3 of us had the satisfaction of realizing that (except for safety and BSA requirements) we were pretty much excess baggage on this outing. Those scouts are ready to go just about anywhere.

