



Trek Guide

Explore the whole crown of Mt. San Jacinto.
Climb the summits of Black Mountain, San Jac and Tahquitz.
See the beginning and ending of Tahquitz Creek.
View the desert from several vantage points.
Count the ecosystems.
Do a conservation project.
View sunrises and sunsets from above.

Boy Scouts of America
California Inland Empire Council
High Adventure Team

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Requirements

- At least 50 miles.
- Summits of Black Mountain, San Jacinto Peak and Tahquitz reached.
- At least 5 days and 4 nights in the wilderness.
- Must comply with BSA Tour Permit rules.
- At least one adult must be High Adventure trained.
- Must follow rules and equipment requirements of National Forest and State Park systems.
- All participants must have current Class 3 physical examination.
- At least 1 hour of service, pre-approved by the Camp Emerson ranger. Service may be completed at Camp Emerson or on the trail. If trail-site project, must be arranged with State Park or National Forest ranger.
- Food and equipment must be carried by the hikers. Food supply may be restocked once. 50 miles and the 3 named summits must be reached before a second food restocking.
- Documentation must include: all required permits, attendance roster, daily log of the expedition. If documents are in proper order at the end of the hike, awards can be presented as soon as that same evening.
- At least 3 previous occasions of having hiked 10+ miles in a day with full pack.
- Documented weekly fitness training for a full year previous to the trek.
- Age 13 or older, and at least First Class rank.
- Rigorous gear shakedown. Excess weight must be pared down.

The Award

Patch is 3 golden mountains on a light-green background.

Food/Water Resupply

The easiest route to resupply food and water is via the Black Mountain road (south side of the mountain, which reaches campgrounds from Black Mountain to the Fuller Ridge trailhead. If following the itinerary below, the hikers can carry a day's food and water up the Black Mountain trail (west side of the mountain), visit the peak, then camp at the Fuller Ridge trailhead, where food and water can be delivered for the remaining 4 days.

Itinerary and Trail Description

Day 1 -Start from Black Mtn trailhead as early in the day as possible, as this is the warmest part of the hike. Hike through an area recovering from the Soboba fire of 1974. Drop packs and hoist bear-bags near the summit, go to the top of the mountain and enjoy the view from the Black Mountain fire lookout. Come back to the packs, hike on the road NE, find a yellow-post campsite not too far from the Pacific Crest Trail. (Robinson #63)

- Day 2 -Ascend the Fuller Ridge, turn West at Deer Springs, arrive at Strawberry Junction. Drop packs and visit Suicide Rock. This is the longest day, miles-wise. Camp at Strawberry Junction.
- Day 3 -East from Strawberry Junction to Wellman Divide. Drop packs and bag the San Jac peak! Return to Wellman Divide, pick up packs, hike to Round Valley campground. Set up camp, take short side-trip to Tamarack Valley.
- Day 4 -East to the Tram Station, short break, then South past desert viewpoints and down to Laws Junction. Drop packs and hike East to Caramba Overlook. Return to packs, hike to Skunk Cabbage meadows to camp.
- Day 5 -Hike North, then West to Saddle Junction. Hike SW to Tahquitz peak, then down to Idyllwild and Camp Emerson. Total trek 55 miles.
- Plan B - Replace the side trip to Suicide Rock (2nd day) with extra miles on the nature trails near the Tram Station (4th day).

Permits and Reservations

Permit 'windows' are indicated in the Sequence of Events, below. Permits should be sought as early as possible, as the popular sites are booked up quickly.

Menu suggestions

Daily food intake should be 3000 - 3500 calories. Most of the calories should be as complex carbohydrates. Attention should be paid to food groups, such that there is adequate protein, and fat content at about 25%. Minimum expected carry weight is 3 pounds per day. Hikers should plan to consume plenty of water during and between meals, as dehydration is a significant risk.

The menu items below were selected for nutrition and minimum cost. Consult the CIEC High Adventure Team, review the Boy Scout Handbook and Fieldbook for ideas on designing your trail menu.

Day 1 - Base Camp breakfast - eggs, pancakes, fruit, milk, toast, cereal
 Trail lunch - crackers, cheese, fruit, canned meat
 Dinner - 1-pot - Beef & Couscous, cheese

Day 2 - Instant cereal, powdered milk, dried fruit
 Lunch - pilot bread, peanut butter
 Dinner - 1-pot - Pasta & Chicken, sunflower seeds

Day 3 - Power-bars, powdered milk, dried fruit
 Lunch - tuna, bread sticks
 Dinner - Turkey & Rice , peanuts

Day 4 - Instant cereal, powdered milk
 Lunch - trail mix
 Dinner - Beef & Bulgur wheat

Day 5 - Power bars, powdered milk

Lunch - crackers, peanut butter, dried fruit
Dinner - Salad, etc., at base camp

Crews may also consider MREs or specialty camping foods

Preparing for the Trek--The Sequence of Events

- 1 yr before trek: Begin daily exercise/diet to get in shape!
- 6 mo before trek: Obtain Class 3 physical. Begin accelerated training hikes and review of gear.
- 90+ days before trek: Write out itinerary in form readable by all agencies granting permission, with dates, # of people, veh. lic #, etc.
Obtain BSA tour permit
- 90 - 14 days before trek: Contact U.S Forest Service for permit for 4th night - Skunk Cabbage.
- 58-10 days before trek: Send permit request to State system for 2nd and 3rd nights - Strawberry Jct, Round Valley.
- 30 days before trek: Contact Idyllwild Ranger station (909) 659-2117 RE 1st night - yellow-post campsite NE of Black Mountain summit.
Finalize roster, menus, gear selection.
- 1 day before trek: Camp at Emerson overnight to get used to the altitude. Last gear shakedown, acquire food. Verify that all documents are in order.
Contact rangers RE trail conditions and water availability.
- Day of trek: Get up very early. Hearty breakfast, last pickup, board vehicles, go to Black Mountain trail head. Enjoy the trek!
- 5-6 days later: Back from the trek. Shower, eat, attend campfire, receive awards.
- Day after trek: Homebound!

Reference Sources

USGS topo maps: Lake Fulmore, San Jacinto Peak, Idyllwild

“Hiking Map of the San Jacinto Wilderness” 1996 California State Parks. Simple topo map with trails and jurisdictions marked. Folds to pocket -size.

“Trail Map of the San Jacinto Wilderness” Tom Harrison Cartography. Larger map with larger price. Large overview, excellent for planning hikes. Does not substitute for the USGS maps.

San Bernardino Mountain Trails: 100 Hikes in Southern California John W. Robinson. Wilderness Press 1986.

Forest Trees of the Pacific Slope George B. Sudworth Dover 1967 ISBN 0-486-21752-3

Nature Guide to the Mountains of Southern California by Car and on Foot 1996 Earth Trails Publications, Idyllwild. \$12.50 + tx, available at Forest Svc HQ.

Service Project Contacts:

Camp Emerson Ranger

State Park: Rick Campbell or Steve Coffey (909) 659-2607

Forest Service: Melinda Lyon (909) 659-2117

Appendix

Mileage/Elevation table, with graph

Map

Sample Forms

Equipment

Gear list 3-season

Crew Gear:

- Sewing kit
- Crew first-aid kit
- Small plastic trowel
- Fuel container
- stove
- cookware
- food
- bear-bag rope
- bear-bag
- wilderness permits
- permission slips
- large water containers
- can opener!
- water purification materials, equipment

Individual gear

- Pack w/frame & hip belt
- matches
- twine
- mini-first-aid kit
- spare batteries
- Platypus or water bottles
- Poncho/rain-gear
- knife
- compass
- maps
- sunglasses
- flashlight

- matches
- TP
- trail food
- bug-repellent
- sunscreen
- space blanket
- hand-cleaner
- writing materials
- OTC's
- pack cover
- shells
- spare t-shirts
- beanie
- gloves
- fleece jacket
- runaround shoes

- ground-cloth
- tent
- sleeping bag
- sleeping pad
- spoon
- dish
- mug/sierra cup
- ziplock bags
- leather gloves
- liquid soap
- Hygiene kit
- washcloth/towel
- laundry bag

Nightwear:

- light-wool socks
- briefs
- long underwear
- mosquito netting

Items changed daily:

- briefs
- socks
- shirt
- hanky

To wear:

- boots/2-layer sox
- shorts
- t-shirt
- broad-brimmed hat
- sunglasses
- neckerchief or bandanna
- Insignia sufficient to clearly identify the group as Boy Scouts.

Hikers should bring clothing adequate for the extremes of weather conditions - from dry and warm to wet and cold. San Jacinto is the ideal mountain for summertime sleeping under the stars, but have emergency raincover in case of thundershowers.