

Trip departs from the Rinehart house @ 6:00 A.M. on Sun., July 19 & Returns @ 4:30 P.M. on Tue., July 28, 2020

Preliminary Meetings:

Meeting #1, Saturday, **May 2**(9 - Noon) @ Virtual: Overview of program, equipment show, equipment checklist, equipment sale & rental, and a brief physical endurance test (You will be expected to jog 1.5 miles in less than 14 minutes. WEAR RUNNING SHOES!)

Meeting #2, Saturday, **May 23**(9 - Noon) @ Virtual: The balance of the fee is due. Completed Medical Form due, and signed on **both** sides. Freeze-dried food demonstration, menu planning, group formation, leader assignments, and trail snack demonstration. (NOTE: Trail snacks are **not** included in fee.)

Meeting #3, Friday, **July 17 OR Saturday, July 18**[time TBA depending on section] @ the Rinehart's house (13710 Utopia Rd., Poway): This meeting is a day or two before the trip. We repackage food, try out stoves & tents, pack & weigh backpacks, and take care of last minute reminders & information. Bring your packed backpack to this meeting and please be on time, according to the schedule announced at 2nd meeting.

Other details & information about the trips

For all trips, the cooking/sleeping groups are formed on the basis of individual choice. Except for backpacks, sleeping bags, and trail snacks, all other equipment, meals, and leadership provided by Poway Backpackers.

Backpacks and sleeping bags are available to rent, (\$35/\$40). Please note: These trips are independent of the PUSD.

All questions should be directed to Scott Rinehart @ Cell: (858) 735-3434; powaybackpackers@gmail.com

NOTE: Sign-ups are first-come first-served. Please complete the form on the front and deliver or mail it to Scott Rinehart, 13710 Utopia Rd., Poway, CA92064. A **\$200** registration deposit is required and is refundable until **May 22**. The balance of **\$480** is due at the 2nd meeting, on **May 23**(Call me if you need more time). After **May 22**, refunds are only made if a suitable replacement backpacker can be enrolled. Attendance at the three preliminary meetings is very important and is therefore **MANDATORY** (except the 1st meeting for 'returning' backpackers). Meeting locations and times are listed above. Get a pen **NOW** and mark your calendar so you won't miss any of the meetings.

SECTION A "Mammoth Loop" grades 6* (12 participants, 3 leaders per section)

This section is designed for beginning and intermediate backpackers. The total backpacking distance is only 35 miles, so there will be abundant opportunities to fish, swim, explore, and day hike along the famous John Muir Trail. Everyone spends the first and last night camping in the Mammoth area. At the **May 23** meeting, participants are divided into cooking/sleeping groups of four, with an experienced leader for each middle school group, to provide leadership and coaching, on the backpack trip, and during the planning meetings.

SECTION B1 & B2 "Crossing the Sierra" grades 7-8* (12 participants, 3 leaders per section)

This section is designed for beginning and intermediate backpackers. Both sections will start in the Mammoth area and end in Yosemite Valley, after walking 60 miles. They will camp at some of the most beautiful locations in the Sierra and have a chance to climb Half Dome. B1 will follow the John Muir Trail via Donahue Pass and Tuolumne Meadows. B2 will cross two forks of the San Joaquin River and enter Yosemite via Isberg Pass, at the headwaters of the Merced River. At the **May 23** meeting, participants are divided into cooking/sleeping groups of four, with an experienced leader for each middle school group, to provide leadership and coaching, on the backpack trip, and during the planning meetings.

SECTION C "Kennedy Meadows to Mt. Whitney" grades 9 & up*(13 participants, 2 leaders)

Most C trip participants have been backpacking before. Experienced adults, in a ratio of 1:6, lead this group. Heading from beautiful Kennedy Meadows the trail heads north as it heads into Inyo National Forest and making its way to the top of Mt. Whitney via Rock Creek and Crabtree Meadows. This group will have the chance to make trail decisions along the way to sprinkle in a mix of creek and lakeside stops. Total trip distance is approximately 75 miles.

SECTION D "Duck Pass to Pine Creek Pass" grades 9 & up*(13 participants, 2 leaders)

Most D trip participants have been backpacking before. Experienced adults, in a ratio of 1:6, lead this group. This section is designed for backpackers that want to take it easy, have extra time in camp to explore, fish, or bag a peak. This trip will start in the Mammoth Lakes area and head south on the John Muir Trail crossing the gorgeous Silver Pass, Bear Ridge, and the moonscape-like Seldon Pass before heading east up the amazing French Canyon and exiting over Pine Creek Pass. Total trip distance is approximately 65 miles.

Please note, that no one is allowed to go on this trip without attending the three meetings listed at the top.

Returning backpackers can skip Meeting #1, unless they wish to rent equipment.

*The recommended grades indicated are flexible. If you are interested in any section, call me.