

Trip departs from Twin Peaks Middle School @ 6:00 A.M. on Sun., July 27 & Returns @ 8:00 P.M. on Mon., August 4

Preliminary Meetings:

Meeting #1, Saturday, **May 3** (9 - Noon) @ Chaparral School Multi-Purpose Room: 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 12 minutes. WEAR RUNNING SHOES!)

Meeting #2, Saturday, **May 31** (9 - Noon) @ Chaparral School Multi-Purpose Room: 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 25 OR Saturday, July 26** [time TBA depending on section] @ the Rinehart's house (14250 Tierra Bonita 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, trail snacks, and food for drive, all other equipment, backpacking meals, and leadership provided by Poway Backpackers. Backpacks and sleeping bags are available to rent. 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 via online registration at powaybackpackers.com. A ***\$300** registration deposit is required and is refundable until **May 30**. The balance of **\$520** (or more if renting) is due at the 2nd meeting, on **May 31** (Call me if you need more time.) After **May 30**, 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 night camping in the Mammoth area. At the **May 31** 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. Both groups will follow the John Muir Trail via Donahue Pass before joining the headwaters of the Merced River. At the **May 31** 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 "Duck Pass to Yosemite Valley" 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. This trip will start in the Mammoth Lakes area and head north on the John Muir Trail travelling along the magnificent Minaret Range before heading over Donahue Pass into Yosemite. Staying on the JMT through Tuolumne Meadows, Half Dome, and exiting at Happy Isles. Total trip distance is approximately 70 miles.

SECTION D "Mammoth Hot Springs Loop" 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 south out of Mammoth heading to Iva Bell Hot Springs along the way. After the hot springs, the group will head north into Ansel Adams Wilderness and back into the Mammoth Lakes area. Total trip distance is approximately 40 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.**