THE HIGH ADVENTURE TEAM

PRESENTS

SILVER BEARPAW TRAIL AWARD

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3/74
The Silver Bearpaw Hike

INTRODUCTION:

This is a special High Adventure Hiking Award offered by the Great Western Council and is part of the Southern California Inter council High Adventure Team Award Program. It is only available as part of the Camp Wolverton program.

The Silver Bearpaw Trail is recommended for both the inexperience and experience group. A guide (packer) is furnished as part of the fee. Food for the (packer) will be furnished by the group.

The basic trail meets part of the requirements of the following awards: Powderhorn, Cross Country, Back Country Exploration, High Adventure Trail, Exploring Mountaineering, One Week Backpack, The Sierra South and the 50 Miler Award. Please check on specific requirements of these awards prior to taking the hike and applying for them at the Council Service Center.

REMEMBER - ONE HIKE - ONE AWARD.

To qualify for the award a Unit must:

1. Own and be familiar with the Hike Aids of Los Angeles Area Council.

2. Own and be familiar with the Trek Aids of San Diego County Council.

3. Have a reservation for the hike with the Council Camping Department. Failure to do so will disqualify the Unit for the award.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Make advanced reservations at the Council Valley Service Center Camping Department. Pay fees.

2. Hike must start and end at Camp Wolverton.

3. Minimum time on trail - 6 days and 5 nights. Days and nights spent at Camp Wolverton are not counted toward hike.

4. Minimum age of youth - 11 years old. Each Scout must have earned the following Skill Awards or Merit Badges: Camping, Cooking and Hiking or have the equivalent knowledge.

5. An itinerary must be filed prior to starting hike with the Camping Department and one with the Camp Director at Camp Wolverton upon arrival.

6. Show evidence of a minimum of three preparation/conditioning hikes within last 4 months prior to hike for each participant at approximately same elevation of the Silver Bearpaw hike.
REQUIREMENTS: (continued)

7. At least one adult with group taking the hike shall have a current Standard First Aid card.

8. At least one adult with group taking hike has satisfactorily completed a BSA Basic Backpack Awareness course. (will be a requirement after June 15, 1974).

9. One adult for each ten youths.

10. Recommended minimum two adults for each group on trail.

11. Each participant including adults must have a complete medical examination within four months prior to hike, use BSA form #4431, (a medical recheck will be required at Camp Wolverton).

12. Group size shall be kept to a minimum recommended for the area you will be hiking in.

13. Obtain all necessary permits: BSA Tour Permit, Council Reservation and the National Park Permit.


15. No pets, firearms or alcoholic beverages allowed on trail.

16. Only currently registered Scouts and Male Scouters allowed on the trail with the Scout groups. Only currently registered Explorers and leaders allowed on the trail with the Explorer group. Co-Ed Explorer groups must meet BSA policy on Co-Ed leadership and camping.

17. Each hiker must spend a minimum of 18 hours at Camp Wolverton before actually starting on the trail.

18. Each group must carry backpacking stoves for cooking purposes which meet the requirements of the BSA and the National Park Service.

HIKE AREA:

The hike starts and ends at Camp Wolverton and is entirely located in the Sequoia National Park.

HOW TO REACH THE TRAILHEAD:

From either Scout Service Center you head North on Intersate 5 to U.S. 99 through Bakersfield, on through Tulare to California Highway 198, East through Visalia on East through Three Rivers into Sequoia National Park, on past Gaint Forest. Then right on road leading into Camp Wolverton. If you get to Lodgepole you have gone too far. The total distance from the Valley Service Center is approximately 229 miles. Driving time is around 5 hours.
MAPS COVERING THE HIKE AREA:

The following topographical map cover the trail and are considered a necessary item.

Triple Divide 151 quad

One map supplied to each group going on trail on total payment of hike fee.

The following maps can be obtained free and are excellent for providing up to date information on the trail status, etc. since they are up-dated almost every year.

Map Name

- Sequoia National Park
- Sequoia National Forest
- Inyo Sequoia Outing Map

The first two can be obtained by request to the District Ranger of the Forest and Park. The last one is a AAA map, obtainable at any AAA office.

PERMITS REQUIRED FOR THE HIKE:

- Great Western Council Silver Bear Paw Reservation
- BSA Local Tour Permit
- Sequoia National Park Wilderness Permit

Correct permits are to allow safe travel through the required areas.

1. Secure and fill out reservation form and submit to the Council Camping office for approval.

2. Submit BSA Local Tour Permit for approval.

3. Write or phone for Sequoia National Park Wilderness Permit.

- Sequoia & King Canyon National Park
- Three Rivers, Ca. 93271
- Telephone (209) 565-3341 565-3314

Give the following information:

- a. Number in party - include 1 extra for your guide (packer).
- b. Where you are going to start and finish your hike.
- c. Places where you intend to camp overnight.

There are times you may not be able to obtain this permit by mail. So you have to pick it up in person at a Park Ranger Station, on the way up at the Three Rivers Station or in the Park at the Lodgepole Ranger Station, approximately one mile beyond the Wolverton turn-off on the General Highway. These permits are issued on a First-Come - First-Serve basis.
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERSONS PER GROUP:

Because of the High-impact of backcountry the National Park Service only allows 15-20 persons for each permit. Dividing the group into two or more small groups will not satisfy this rule if all groups are in fact hiking together.

As a suggestion, one group might be a day or two ahead of the other. This is within the spirit of the requirement.

PRIOR TO HIKE:

Submit the following:

1. Itinerary
2. Menu
3. Individual pack list
4. Patrol, Troop, Crew or group equipment
5. Roster
   a. Name
   b. Age
   c. Rank
   d. Address and Phone No.
   e. Weight of pack

ON HIKE:

Keep adequate notes (Trail Log).

Lightweight gas stoves should be used for all cooking to achieve minimum impact on the fragile environment.

Each Unit must pack out ALL of their own trash and leave the trail and campsites unmarked by their passage.

Each hiker will carry all of his personal gear.

AFTER HIKE:

Submit with award application:

1. Unit Trail Log - each youth to write one paragraph.
2. Any suggestions on how to improve the hike.
The scenic trail is all in the Sequoia National Park and on some fairly
maintained park trails. Many campsites allow flexible daily scheduling.

1. **CLOVER CREEK**
   - Elevation: 8,400 feet
   - Facilities: primitive
   - Water: Creek
   - Located: on Clover Creek

2. **TWIN LAKES**
   - Elevation: 9,400 feet
   - Facilities: primitive
   - Water: Lake
   - Located: on Twin Lake

3. **RANGER LAKES**
   - Elevation: 9,200 feet
   - Facilities: primitive
   - Water: Lake
   - Located: on Ranger Lake

4. **LOST LAKE**
   - Elevation: 9,100 feet
   - Facilities: primitive
   - Water: Lake
   - Located: about 3/4 mile off of main trail.

5. **COMMANCHE MEADOWS**
   - Elevation: 7,800 feet
   - Facilities: primitive
   - Water: stream
   - Located: in Sugar Loaf Valley

6. **SUGARLOAF STREAM CROSSING**
   - Elevation: 7,000 feet
   - Facilities: primitive
   - Water: stream
   - Located: about 1/2 mile before Ferguson Creek

7. **FERGUSON CREEK**
   - Elevation: 7,100 feet
   - Facilities: primitive
   - Water: creek
   - Located: on Ferguson Creek

8. **NO NAME**
   - Elevation: 7,400 feet
   - Facilities: primitive
   - Water: stream
   - Located: 1st stream crossing in Deadman Canyon

9. **QUIET VILLAGE**
   - Elevation: 7,920 feet
   - Facilities: primitive
   - Water: stream
   - Located: 2nd stream crossing in Deadman Canyon

10. **GRAVE**
    - Elevation: 8,400 feet
    - Facilities: primitive
    - Water: stream
    - Located: in Deadman Canyon

11. **DRIFT FENCE**
    - Elevation: 8,400 feet
    - Facilities: primitive
    - Water: stream
    - Located: Deadman Canyon

12. **BIG BIRD LAKE**
    - Elevation: 7,800 feet
    - Facilities: primitive
    - Water: lake
    - Located: 1/2 mile steep climb from Drift Fence

13. **TAMARACK LAKE TRAIL JUNCTION**
    - Elevation: 8,400 feet
    - Facilities: primitive
    - Water: creek
    - Located: at Lone Pine Creek

14. **HAMILTON LAKE TRAIL JUNCTION**
    - Elevation: 7,600 feet
    - Facilities: primitive
    - Water: creek
    - Located: at Lone Pine Creek

15. **BEAR PAW MEADOW**
    - Elevation: 7,800 feet
    - Facilities: primitive
    - Water: creek
    - Located: Bear Paw Meadow

16. **PANTHER GAP TRAIL JUNCTION**
    - Elevation: 7,600 feet
    - Facilities: primitive
    - Water: primitive
    - Located: about 1/2 mile up the Panter Gap trail from the High Sierra Trail,
RANGER STATION:

1. Roaring River
2. Bearpaw Meadow

Both are able to assist you with most emergencies you may encounter. They have radio-telephones and can call Camp Wolverton or a helicopter for transportation to the Exeter Memorial Hospital if required.

SIDE EXCURSIONS:

The Silver Bearpaw offers great opportunities for side excursions that will please the mountaineer, the fisherman, or just the sun bather.

**Big Bird Lake** located approximately 1/2 mile off of the main trail is by far the most popular side trip on the entire hike. Because of its immense size, it is truly a worthwhile place to see. The fishing is usually pretty good, since there are usually few people, but the water is quite cold for swimming, although not impossibly so. The short hike to the lake offers spectacular views of the glaciated walls of Deadman Canyon.

**Lost Lake** located about 3/4 mile off the main trail is hardly as spectacular as Big Bird, but it is most beautiful in its own way. The lake is similar in setting to Ranger or Twin as it is a relatively small mirror set in a wooded area. Once again the fishing is better than Twin or Ranger because it is a bit off the trail. Camping is very nice since there is usually an improved site available. Swimming is possible because the size of the lake serves to keep the water tolerably warm.

**Hamilton Lakes** (about 4 miles from the main trail). The main Hamilton lake lies on the High Sierra Trail. Consequently, it is very heavily used. The lake is in a granite setting with the imposing trail up to Kaweah Gap towering over it. Unfortunately, it is sometimes difficult to get a campsite at Hamilton because of the amount of people. The trail up to the lake is slightly difficult but offers a spectacular view of Anzels Wing, a delicate but massive granite outcropping. Fishing at Hamilton is poor.

**Tamarack Lake** located about 4 miles from the main trail, is a beautiful if small lake, nestled in a canyon running parallel to Hamilton Lakes. The fishing is usually quite good since it is used less than Hamilton. Tamarack is shallower than most lakes making it quite good for swimming. It also has a small cabin on its banks that is an adequate emergency shelter for a few people if it is not occupied.

Other Interesting Side Trips A hike up Cloud Canyon will offer the backpacker a view of one of the most spectacular canyons in the Sierra. Cloud is at least as pretty as Deadman and well worth the trip. Coopermine pass connects the two canyons at the top at the site of an early mine. The pass is not maintained but is usually passable by experienced hikers. Since the pass is at the top of the canyon, it can be avoided and the canyon enjoyed by all. Cloud is highly recommended for the unit with two or three extra days.

A trip to Tamarack Lake offers the mountaineer a chance to climb Triple Divide Peak and Lion Rock. Triple Divide is also accessible from the top of Deadman Canyon. Hamilton offers Mt. Stewart, Eagle Scout Peak, and, over Kaweah Gap, a beautiful view of the Kaweah Peaks range. These trips are recommended for the more physically adventurous.
Silver Bear Paw

ELEVATION FEET

12,000 11,500 11,000 10,500 10,000 9,500 9,000 8,500 8,000 7,500 7,000 6,500 6,000 5,500 5,000 0

10 20 30 40 50 60