

Black Canyon Trek



Paddle Trip Through Black Canyon on The Colorado River *Hoover Dam to Cottonwood Cove, AZ*

March 21 to 26, 2014

Segment 1: Hoover Dam to Willowbeach, AZ, March 21-23

Segment 2: Willowbeach, AZ, to Cottonwood Cove, NV, March 23-26

Information & Registration Packet

Updated 12/31/2013

Hosted by Venturing Crew 377 & the Aca Chapter of Cahuilla Lodge #127

Black Canyon Trek, 2014

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Thank you for your interest in joining Venture Crew 377 & the Aca Chapter of Cahuilla Lodge #127 on our annual trek down the Colorado River. Our treks down Black Canyon in 2012 and 2013 were unparalleled successes. Everyone that attended left with huge smiles on their faces, bold adventures, and a lot of new friends. Our hopes are that everyone involved with our 2014 trek will have a fun and safe adventure with memories that they will cherish the rest of their lives.

This year's river adventure will take place March 21 – 26, 2014, and will be divided in to 2 segments: Segment 1- We will be launching from Hoover Dam at 9AM Saturday morning and taking out on Sunday morning at Willowbeach, AZ (12 miles) ; Segment 2- We paddling from Willowbeach, AZ, to Cottonwood Cove, NV (35 miles). Scouts are welcome to join us on either segment 1 or both segments.

This trek open to all Order of the Arrow members and venturers ages 14 years and above. This trek will be through the famous Black Canyon. This area is renowned for its history, sheer rock canyons, and abundant wildlife. We will be spending ample time exploring the many coves and other hidden areas that this area is known for.

The price is \$125 per person for segment 1 of the trek and \$200 per person for combined segments 1 & 2 of the trek. This trip limited to 16 people ages 14 years and older. ***It is important to register for this trek early so that we can secure our launch permits in order to depart from Hoover Dam.***The price includes food, boats, PFDs, and paddles. There will be mandatory paddle craft training at Lake Perris SRA held on Saturday, March 1, and a makeup date on Sunday, March 8.

Please check out the Black Canyon Trek webpage of the ACA Chapter website, www.acachapter.org, to get the latest information, contingent meeting dates, and updates for our Colorado River excursion. We will also be emailing all participants with the latest updates.

This trip is being hosted by Venturing Crew 377 and the ACA Chapter of Cahuilla Lodge #127, Order of the Arrow. Our equipment and river guide will be Paula Boothe and the adult contingent leader for this trip is James Hermes, phone (760) 537-0394, email acachapter@gmail.com.

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Recap of the 2013 Black Canyon Trek

On March 23-27 5 youth and 3 adults from Venturing Crew 377 attended the 2013 Black Canyon Trek. This year we launched our canoes and kayaks at the base of Hoover Dam and paddled over 50 miles to Cottonwood Cove, NV. When we were being shuttled down for the 8AM launch from Hoover we knew automatically that this was going to be a spectacular trip. The first view you see when entering Black Canyon from the access for the dam is the new Bypass bridge above you and the Colorado River hundreds of feet below you. Our collective jaws were already agape when Hoover Dam finally came into view. The sheer massive size of the dam, river, bypass bridge, and the river was, in a simple understatement, overwhelming.

As soon as we were on the water it the experience just grew better and better. After paddling a short distance we were entering one of the famed rain caves that is a result of the geothermal activity in this portion of the canyon. A few miles down from Hoover we beached our boats to go for a short hike to the natural hot springs in Boy Scout Canyon. The further back we hiked into the canyon the wilder the terrain became. We had hike through the stream bed and climb up waterfalls with water that was close to 100 degrees just to reach the back of the canyon.

After spending our first night in Whiterock Canyon we paddled 6 miles to Willowbeach, Along the way we got to paddle our boats into the famous emerald cave and explore the old gauging station at the narrowest part of Black Canyon. We picked up the balance of our food at Willowbeach and then paddled to our next camping spot at Mule Wash. The weather was so excellent and the everyone so excited from the scenery that we elected to paddle further down the river. By the time we got of the water on day 2 we paddled 16 miles when the original plan was to paddle 10 miles. We landed in copper basin cove and spent the evening telling stories of past campouts and the highlights from our previous 2 days of adventure.

On day 3 we again had great weather. We decided to paddle to a cove south of Nelsons Landing for lunch and to go swimming. We left the area late in the afternoon so that we could paddle into the top of Lake Mohave at night. The air was crisp and the glow from the moonlight through the clouds gave the impression that we could have been in another world. We ended up paddling another 15 miles that day which almost put us a full day ahead of schedule.

On day 4 we woke up to the news that there would be 35mph wins throughout the day. We paddled our boats about 1/2 a mile until we decided to wait out the wind storm on a strip of beach southwest of owls point. We on this narrow strip of beach for over 5 hours until the winds finally settled down during sunset. We hadn't planned on paddling at night a second time, but we did out of necessity so that we could get to the Nevada side of Lake Mohave and closer to our take out at Cottonwood Cove.

There's an old saying that EVERYTHING happens for a reason. We weren't able to paddle during the day because of the wind. The wind settled down around sunset which necessitated another night paddle. After a couple of hours on the water we were treated to what may have been the absolute highlight of this year's trek. The clear skies, clouds nestled over the mountains to the east of us, and the calm waters combined to give us the most majestic moonrise of a full moon that we may see in our lifetime. Yes, it was breathtaking.

We spent the final night on a 40 foot wide spit of land only 1.5 miles from Cottonwood Cove. We awoke at sunrise and immediately began packing our boats for the final leg of our trek. After only 20 minutes on the water we landed at the boat launch at Cottonwood Cove and began unloading. The close of our trek seemed almost too subtle considering everything we had seen the previous 4 days. As it turned out this was the perfect end as it gave us all the time to reflect on a trip that was majestic in its beauty, physically challenging in the distance we traveled in just a few days, and spiritual in its nuances. Everything happens for a reason.

Special thanks to Paula Boothe for again serving as our outfitter and guide for the 2013 Black Canyon Trek.

General Information

Registration

All Order of the Arrow members and venturers are welcome to participate in this trek. For insurance reasons, all OA members that are not registered members of Crew 377 will need to register as members for this trek. This can be done for little to no cost.

Individual Venturers that would like to attend may dual register with Crew 377. Whole Venturing Crews that are not registered members of Crew 377, but would still like to attend may do so. Your Crew must file a required touring plan and provide either 1 female or male adult leader registered in your respective crew (depending on if there are male or female youth venturers attending this trek).

The registration page can be found on page 9 of this packet.

Segment 1 & 2, and Launching from Hoover Dam

Segment 1 of this trek will be from Hoover Dam to Willowbeach, AZ. We will be launching at 9AM and exploring many of the historic area along the river including emerald cave, Arizona Hot Springs, and the gauging station. The end of segment 1 will be on Sunday morning, March 23, roughly 12 miles downriver at Willowbeach, AZ. Trek group members who can only attend segment 1 of the trek will take out at Willowbeach and be taken home. All others will continue on with segment 2 of the trek down to Cottonwood Cove, NV.

This year we will be launching from Hoover Dam. There are a number of requirements that we must meet in order to launch from the dam. The area around Hoover Dam is considered a security zone and we are not allowed to launch paddle craft from our own vehicles. The use of a federally approved outfitter must be used to transport all paddlers, equipment, and boats to the launch point below Hoover Dam. For this purpose we will be using Desert River Kayak from Bullhead City, AZ. Once there we will only have a very short time to load the canoes and launch.

Only 30 boats a day are allowed to launch from Hoover Dam. Due to this restriction it highly advisable that you register for this trek early in order to us assure our group's ability to obtain the proper launch permits and coordinate appropriate transportation for our gear with the outfitter.

Transportation- Getting There and Getting Back

Transportation will be via trek leaders' personal vehicles and parents that wish to volunteer to help transport youth. We will be meeting at 10:30PM, March 21, at the TA Travel Center just south of the Interstate 10 Freeway, 46155 Dillon Rd, Coachella, CA. From there we will be driving overnight to an area near Hoover Dam to meet our outfitter. We will need volunteers to help transport trek group members who will only be attending segment 1 of this trek. For the trip back from the completion of segment 2 of the trek on March 26, volunteer drivers are asked to meet at the put out area at Cottonwood Cove, AZ, to help drive the group back to the same TA Travel Center that we met at.

The cost of gas for 1 round trip to Hoover Dam and then back from Cottonwood Cove is supplemental in the overall cost of this trip. We will need a couple of volunteer drivers to drive the trek leaders' vehicles from our Friday night camping area to Cottonwood Cove. Volunteer drivers are encouraged to explore the many recreational areas that we'll be near and possibly to bring your family for a great camping vacations near the Colorado River.

Food

All meals will consist largely of trail food and will be prepared by trek group members on site during our time on the river. All food will be packed in by the trek group. Individuals will need to provide their own dinner and for the trip up to our camping spot near Hoover Dam on March 21. Individuals will also need to provide their own lunch for the trip back from Cottonwood Cove on March 26.

Anyone who wishes to eat vegetarian meals will need to let the trek leaders know at least 10 days (March 12) before the departure date on March 21. You can let us know via the registration form in this packet.

Campgrounds

Camping spots vary due to an ever changing landscape from the river. Nightly camping for trek group members will be at arbitrary spots chosen by the trek group leaders. It all depends on beach conditions and the water level. Some areas that we will be camping in will have outhouses, but no other amenities should be expected.

For volunteer drivers that will not be going back home during the week or participating in the trek on the river, there are ample places to camp at either Willow Beach or Cottonwood Cove. Take the time to enjoy yourselves and go fishing, hiking, or just exploring with your new friends that aren't going on the river trek or camping with you family in a great locale.

In-Camp Activities and Side Trips / Hikes

When not on the river, trek group members can explore the wilderness areas near our campsites. During breaks from paddling we will be going on a few short hikes to explore some of the side canyons or natural hot springs that will surround us.

Boats- Canoes

We will be primarily paddling canoes on this trek. This is a 5 day trek and we will need to bring all of our supplies with us from the launch point to take out. The canoes will be provided by our trek equipment provider and river guide, Paula Boothe.

Cost

The cost of this trip will be \$125 for those individuals attending only segment 1 of this trek and \$200 for segments 1 & 2 of the trek. The price includes food, boats, PFDs, and paddles. The cost does not include transportation, tents, sleeping bags or pads, protective or general clothing, float bags, etc.

There is a required \$50 deposit due by Jan. 31, 2014. A second payment is due by Feb. 28, 2014, and the balance due for final payment is on March 14, 2014. **Please Note: \$15 of the \$50 deposit is nonrefundable. This \$15 is the cost of the permit to launch from Hoover Dam.**

For volunteer drivers who will not be participating on the trek on the river, there is no cost to attend. The cost of gas for 1 round trip to Hoover Dam and then back from Cottonwood Cove is supplemental in the overall cost of this trip. We will be unable to pay for your food or accommodations during the time that the trek group is on the river (March 21 to 26).

Requirements to Attend

Scouts:

1. Must complete Annual BSA Health and Medical Record form (Parts A, B, and C).
2. Must Complete Registration Form on page 8.
3. Completed BSA safe swim defense within 12 months prior to this trip (March 26, 2014) and complete the required safety afloat training course that we will be holding on March 1 and March 9, 2014.
4. Classified as a "swimmer" per BSA regulations.
5. Be a minimum of 14 years of age by March 1, 2014.
6. All trek group members must fit into personal flotation device (PFD's) that are being supplied, with all buckles securely fastened. Maximum torso circumference - 52 inches. If can't fit into this sized PDF then you will need to supply your own.

Adults:

1. Must complete Annual BSA Health and Medical Record form (Parts A, B, and C).
2. Must Complete Registration Form on page 8.
3. Completed BSA safe swim defense within 12 months prior to this trip (March 26, 2014).
4. Classified as a "swimmer" per BSA regulations.
5. Be a minimum of 18 years of age by March 1, 2014.
6. All paddlers must fit into personal flotation device (PFD's) supplied by the outfitter, with all buckles securely fastened. Maximum torso circumference - 52 inches. If you can't fit into this sized PDF then you will need to supply your own.

It is highly recommended that anyone attending this trip become familiar with the policies of the BSA safe swim defense and safety afloat.

Rules

1. All participants on this trip must be in full class A uniform while traveling from our departure point to the Willow Beach launch point and on the journey back home from Cottonwood Cove.
2. All participants must adhere to the Scout Oath and Law
3. All participants should pass the BSA Basic Swimming Test as a "swimmer."
4. All Participants must wear a life jacket at all times while in the boats as upsets on the river are likely.
5. No alcoholic beverages are permitted at any time, by anyone, on this trip.
6. No firearms or illegal drugs or fireworks are allowed.
7. The "buddy system" will be enforced at all times in camp and on the river.
8. All Participants must adhere to the safety afloat as laid out in the Guide to Safe Scouting and the principles of leave no trace.
9. The watercraft that an individual trains in at the safety afloat course in March will be the watercraft that the individual will use on the actual trek in Black Canyon.

Packing List

- Water - 1 gallon per person per day. There is **no potable water** in Saturday's through Wednesday's camp. Each person needs to bring enough bottled water to see them through the "Dry Camps."
- Canteen or sealable water bottle with sufficient water.
- Tent & ground cover to protect against insects & mosquitoes, etc.
- Dry bags or 5 gallon buckets with lid to carry your gear.
- Pocketknife (Sharp), first aid kit, compass, emergency blanket, metal mirror or signaling device
- High intensity whistle with lanyard
- Headlamp type flashlight and extra batteries
- Waterproof matches
- Sun screen lotion # 50 and lip/nose protection
- Insect repellent
- Needle & thread
- Mess kit, eating utensils, sierra cup or equivalent
- Trail stove with supply of liquid fuel for morning and evening meals
- Dry change of clothes (up to 5 days worth, but remember that the more you bring then the more stuff that you have to fit in your boat)
- Clean clothes to change in to at "take out" in Cottonwood Cove, AZ. We will be wearing these clothes for the trip home.
- Sunglasses or prescription glasses with a band
- Light hiking boots or old tennis shoes (non canvas) to wear around camp and for the hikes in the side canyons. These will serve as dry shoes for when we're not on the water.
- Non canvas tennis shoes, aqua shoes, neoprene booties, river sandals or Equivalent (No Flip Flops) to wear for the time that we're on the water.
- Swimsuit, shorts, or long pants made from synthetic materials and long sleeve shirt to wear on the boats
- Long sleeved shirt and pants for evening.
- Biodegradable soap, towel, washcloth, toiletries.
- Wide-brimmed hat, visor or cap, beanie
- Waterproof camera
- Rain suit, light rain jacket or nylon windbreaker, wool sweater and wool socks in case of inclement weather

Payment Schedule, Trek Itinerary and Training Dates

Date	Activity or Training	Location
6:30PM to 8PM, Jan. 21	Black Canyon Trek Information Meeting	Wanakik Chapter House (Back of parking lot) First United Methodist Church 4845 Brockton Avenue Riverside, CA 92506
Jan. 31	Deposit Payment of \$50 Due. <i>Please Note: \$15 of the \$50 deposit is nonrefundable. This \$15 is the cost of the permit to launch from Hoover Dam.</i>	
Feb. 28	2nd Payment Due	
9AM to 2PM, March 1	Required Safety Afloat Training	Sail Cove at Lake Perris SRA (Entrance fee required to enter)
9AM to 2PM, March 9	Required Safety Afloat Training Makeup Date (For those individuals who were not able to make it to the March 1 training)	Sail Cove at Lake Perris SRA (Entrance fee required to enter)
March 14	Final Payment Due	
6:30PM to 7:15PM, March 18	Trek Group Meeting	Access Life Chiropractic, 45445 Portola Ave # 2B, Palm Desert, CA
Trek Dates		
10:30PM, March 21	Meet at TA Travel Center in Coachella, depart for campgrounds near Hoover Dam in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, NV	TA Travel Center, south of the Interstate 10 Freeway, 46155 Dillon Rd, Coachella, CA
7AM	Meet with Desert River Kayak to load gear and boats to transport down to the launch point below Hoover Dam	Near Boulder City, NV
3PM, March 26	Trek Group paddles to “take out” point at Cottonwood Cove, AZ. Stow Gear in vehicles, head home by 4PM	Cottonwood Cove, AZ
10PM, March 26	Meet at TA Travel Center to meet parents trek officially ends.	TA Travel Center, south of the Interstate 10 Freeway, 46155 Dillon Rd, Coachella, CA

- ***Please be aware that the training dates and times for the safety afloat training are subject to change.***
- ***The watercraft that an individual trains in at the safety afloat course in March will be the watercraft that the individual will use on the actual trek in Black Canyon.***

Food Menu

Friday	Dinner	Fast Food before we leave for the trek.	
Saturday	Breakfast	Cereal & oatmeal before meeting with the outfitter	
	Lunch	Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, coolaid, tang	
	Dinner	Beef stew & bread bowls, tea, hot coco	
Sunday	Breakfast	Boil in a bag scrambled eggs, capri sun, tang	
	Lunch	Soup and sandwich grinders, coolaid	
	Dinner	Canned spaghetti and breadsticks, hot coco, tea	
Monday	Breakfast	Oatmeal, bananas, apples, oranges, capri sun, tang	
	Lunch	Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, coolaid, tang	
	Dinner	Chili on rice, hot coco, tea	
Tuesday	Breakfast	Cereal, bananas, apples, oranges, tang, milk (for cereal)	
	Lunch	Cheese, peanut butter, fruit, coolaid	
	Dinner	Tuna and noodles, hot coco, tea	
Wednesday	Breakfast	Pancakes, bananas, apples, oranges, tang	
	Lunch	Tuna medley, crackers, fruit, tang, coolaid	
	Dinner	Fast food in Needles, CA	

PLEASE NOTE:

*Fruit such as apples, oranges, and banana chips will be available at breakfast and lunch. We will use dried along with the banana chips on Tuesday and Wednesday. Apples and oranges may not last more than a few days.

**Drinks that will be available will be coffee, tea, cocoa, tang, capri sun, milk (box or powdered), and coolaid.

***In case the weather turns cols we will also be bringing a supply of top ramen and prepackaged soup mixes.

Additional Online Training and Reference Material

<http://www.myscouting.org>

The following training courses can be taken at myscouting.org: Safety Afloat; Safe Swim Defense; Hazardous Weather Training; Trek Safety. Each individual is required to complete the Safety Afloat training and the Safe Swim Defense. It is also highly suggested that each participant complete the courses for Hazardous Weather Training and Trek Safety training. You will need to create a user account and password if you don't already have one.

<http://www.paddling.net/guidelines/>

Several informative articles about paddling techniques, boat gear, paddling safety, and much more.

<http://www.paddling.net/guidelines/showArticle.html?116>

A very good article about applying the principles of leave no trace to paddling activities. The webpage also includes links to the leave no trace website.

<http://www.desertriveroutfitters.com/>

Website for Desert River Kayak. This is the outfitter that we will be using to transport our equipment, trek group members, and boats down to the base of Hoover Dam in order to launch.

Black Canyon Trek, 2014

Hosted by Venture Crew 377 & the Aca Chapter of Cahuilla Lodge #127

Registration Form

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION

Full Name: _____ Home Phone No.: _____ - _____ - _____

Alt. Phone No.: _____ - _____ - _____ E-mail: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Scout Unit Type: (Circle One) Venture Crew, Troop

Scout Unit No.: _____ District: _____ OA Chapter (If Applicable): _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age (must be 14 years or older to attend this trip): _____

Height: _____ Weight: _____ Are you a vegetarian? (Circle One) Yes / No

You will be attending Segment(s) of this trip: (Circle One) Segment 1 or Segments 1 & 2

Parents/ Guardians Signature (if above person is under 18 years of age): _____

Check your own special training and qualifications.

CPR: Date Earned: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Safety Afloat: Date Earned: _____ Expiration Date: _____

ARC First Aid: Date Earned: _____ Expiration Date: _____

RN or LVN: Date Earned: _____ Expiration Date: _____

BSA Lifeguard: Date Earned: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____ - _____ - _____

Alternate Emergency Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____ - _____ - _____

Please state any physical limitations that you may have and/or any special dietary needs, allergies (such as bee stings), etc.

Total cost per person is \$125 for segment 1, \$200 per person for segment 1&2.

A deposit of \$50 is required by January 31, 2014 and the balance must be paid by March 14, 2014. **Please Note: \$15 of the \$50 deposit is nonrefundable. This \$15 is the cost of the permit to launch from Hoover Dam.*

*** OA members that are not registered members of Crew 377 will need to register as members for this trek. Venture Scouts that are not registered members of Crew 377 may dual register with the crew or must have their crew file a required touring plan and provide either 1 female or male adult leader registered in your respective crew (depending on if there are male or female youth venturers attending this trek).*

****The Annual BSA Health and Medical Record Form, 680-001 is required for this trek by all individuals who are participating in the trek down the Colorado River. This form must be completely filled out (parts A, B, and C) and is due by March 9, 2014. Copies of this form can be found on the trek webpage: www.acachapter.org/bct*

For Recording Use Only:

Receipt # _____

Make checks payable to:

Venture Crew 377

Mail to:

James Hermes

45534 Sutter Creek Road,

Indio, CA. 92201