

Troop 713 Exploratory Summer Trek 2007

July 7-16, 2007

Weminuche Wilderness, Southern Colorado Rockies

5 nights on the trail

Bonus features: Silverton-Durango Narrow Gauge
RR excursion
Texas Musical at Palo Duro Canyon

Cost: TBD, about \$400-\$500 per person

Eligibility requirements:

- Primary: Scouts who completed their second BSA summer camp in 2006 or were born before July 7, 1993. Scouters who have Boy Scout Leader Essential Training
- Secondary: Scouts and Scouters who meet minimum endurance requirements by June 9, 2007.

Purpose: Fun!

A Scout's career includes high adventures in the great outdoors. These are "lifetime," "mountain top" experiences creating memories that stay with the Scout forever. Short-term, they help keep a Scout interested in the program. Long-term, they build the self-esteem an individual enjoys from having taken on big challenges with planning, courage and teamwork.

Why "exploratory"?

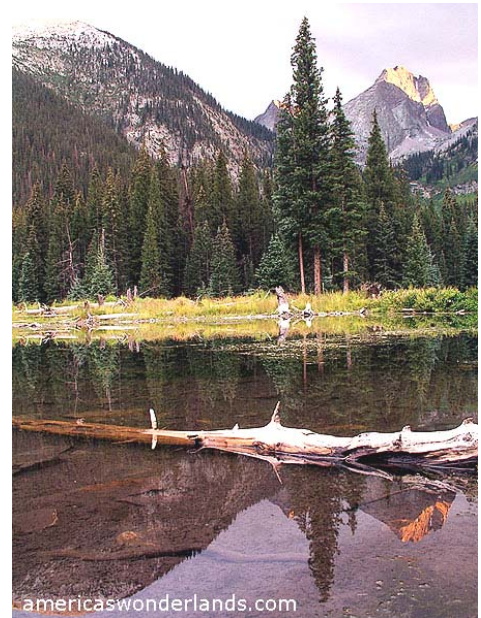
Troop 713 has traditionally used official BSA destinations for its high adventure. This year, we are backing the leadership and resourcefulness of our own Scouts with the combined hundred or so years of Scouting experience of our adult leader corps to outfit and conduct our own high adventure. To make sure we are successful, we are going to accept the troop's best hikers and then "over-prepare" for this year's trek. The Scouts and Scouters will document our preparation and the trek itself so that the evaluation afterward can be used to guide future planning and preparation.

Future high adventures:

One purpose of this trek is to build a troop tradition that provides a kind of "rite of passage" for Scouts who achieve age and rank goals in the Troop. These may be similar treks or the typical high adventures like backpacking at Philmont or canoeing the Minnesota Boundary Waters.

Scout corps:

There will be slots for approximately 10-12 eligible Scouts to participate.



(over)

Adult corps:

Nine BSA-trained adults have firmly committed to the preparation phase of this trek. Others are considering the commitment. This will provide 4-5 vehicles. At least two recent Eagle Scouts from Troop 713 are also committed.

Planning:

Participating Scouts will be involved in the detailed planning of this high adventure. The Senior Patrol Leader has accepted planning assignments on behalf of the Scouts.

Funding:

Scouts taking part in this high adventure will be afforded opportunities to participate in special fundraising projects to build the Troop's high-adventure trek account.

Tentative Schedule:

Depart Carrollton at 6 a.m. July 7, 2007

Arrive Carrollton 9 p.m. July 16, 2007

Additional Information

Participating Scouts and Scouters will complete troop-level Leave No Trace training and will practice LNT at all outdoor events.

Strenuous conditioning will take place from now until July, including brisk walking with loaded backpacks. Part of the conditioning will include a rigorous test to establish physical eligibility.

Action now

Footgear -- Scouts and Scouters planning to participate should obtain suitable boots NOW. When shopping for boots, take along two pairs of socks because hikers wear two layers of socks for proper protection of their feet. Both layers should be of a non-cotton knit. (The purpose is to keep perspiration away from skin surfaces as much as possible and to reduce foot-boot friction.)

If you need further advice, we suggest you visit an outfitter like REI, or a specialty shoe store like Larry's Shoes and seek the advice of an expert on hiking footgear. Read what REI, GORP and other on-line resources have to share about backpacking boots. These boots must be broken in with extensive wear before the Scout hits the trail. Bear in mind that if someone's boots fail, at least three individuals will miss part of this adventure!

Backpack – Participants will carry personal gear, food for five days and their share of crew gear in durable, comfortable backpacks. It does not matter whether the pack is internal frame or external frame. The crucial component of the pack is the hip belt. Nearly all the weight the backpacker carries must rest on the hips, and the hip belt makes this happen.