

# THE TRAILHEAD

A Periodic Publication of the GLAAC High Adventure Team

Visit our website [GLAAC-HAT.org](http://GLAAC-HAT.org) for more HAT information.

For information & use of Western Area Units

Dennis Cline, Editor    Number 237    May-Jun 2017    Steve Dodson, Chair

*The TrailHead* is published six times a year by the GLAAC High Adventure Team as an information and educational service to adult Scouters. It is distributed to all registered Scouters and Venture Leaders by GLAAC via link through the council online newsletter. Others who wish to receive a direct electronic copy in PDF format, send your request to [Trailhead@GLAAC-HAT.org](mailto:Trailhead@GLAAC-HAT.org).

The most recent issue of *The TrailHead* is available on the HAT website: [GLAAC-HAT.org](http://GLAAC-HAT.org).

## TRAINING CALENDAR 2017

Log Cabin Provisional	29 Jul-5 Aug
Trail Boss (Advanced)	2 Sep
HAT Meeting	5 Sep
Desert Camping Seminar	9 Sep
ALBT Fall Class #1	16 Sep
Desert Weekend Outing	TBD
ALBT Fall Class #2	30 Sep
HAT Meeting	3 Oct
Level I Climbing Instructor	13-15 Oct
Wilderness First Aid	28-30 Oct
Winter Camping/Ice Axe Seminar	4 Nov
HAT Meeting	7 Nov
Navigation & Orienteering	18 Nov
Level II Climbing Instructor	18-19 Nov
HAT Meeting	5 Dec

## HAT WEB SITE/MAIL BAG

You can contact *The Trailhead* at our email address. [Trailhead@GLAAC-HAT.org](mailto:Trailhead@GLAAC-HAT.org). Have an idea for Hike of the

month? Have an interesting trail experience to share? A favorite hike or trail recipe? Share it with your fellow High Adventure leaders.

## HAT MEETING MAY

We are temporarily without a professional advisor. The recent reorganization in the Camping Department has left us on our own for the time being. We have no indication of when a new advisor may be appointed.

**Webmaster.** Thorpe forwarded the latest edition of *HAT Hi-Lites* for mark-up. Website traffic has been slow.

**Equipment.** Bower distributed REI product sheets covering sleeping pads and mattresses. The handout is available at REI It covers types, prices, and accessories. Check it out and sleep comfortably.

**Literature & Pubs.** All Flyers have been updated following cancellation of Tour Plan requirements. Hike Aids 1 and 6 are in work. All other Hike Aids have been updated.

**Awards.** The Scout Shop has (finally) received new stocks of the John Muir, California State Park, and Gold Trail Saver Awards. These have been on backorder for several weeks.

Rose received some questions regarding the John Muir Award. The

next update of Hike Aid 6 will include clarification of the requirements.

**Health & Safety.** Dodson forwarded to the distribution list information from the Forest Service on heat related illnesses. The information is geared toward firefighters but is useful to everyone who spends time outdoors.

**Training.** The Rock Climbing and Rope Rescue Class ran with six students. The outing is scheduled for May 13.

The Lead Scout Class (formerly JLT) Class was rescheduled for May 13. Two troops expressed interest but have not signed up as of now.

The Wilderness First Aid Class scheduled for March 26 is full. The April 29 First Aid/CPR class will offer a wilderness portion as an add-on.

**Forest & Conservation.** Ledford reported that as of April 29 the PCT in the Sand fire area has been reopened. There is no camping except in the Mill Creek area. Check with the Forest Service for the latest restrictions. Our trail crews have been encountering about 6 PCT thru hikers per day when they are working.

Water is plentiful throughout the San Gabriels. The Kybos at Hoeegees have been closed. No word on replacements or alternate facilities. There are numerous downfalls and obstructions along the PCT between Burkhart Saddle and Cooper Canyon.

**Climbing.** New editions of Climb on Safely, Cave Safely – Cave Softly, and Canyoneering Safely are available on line. As of now there are no plans for print editions. Go to the scouting homepage. There is a blue bar at the top with pull-down menus. Select the “scoutsource” tab and go to “outdoor.” Look for “COPE and Climbing” on the left side of the page. That link will take you to the new manuals.

**Districts.** **Frontier** has is

encouraging units to use the new camping cards to help defray costs of new summer camp. **Lucky Baldwin** is sponsoring a bike ride this month. **Northstar** had a successful Camporee in April and is also promoting the camp cards. **Pacifica** - Corwin is being transferred overseas in August so we will need a replacement rep. **Rio Hondo** has scheduled their fall Camporee for Oct 22-23. The **Cub Award** for the month is the Vasquez Rocks Award.

**Around the Horn.** We will be taking a field trip to Trask to evaluate the facility for the Fall Adult Leader Backpack Training Class. We still need to work out the budget.

## HAT MEETING JUNE

As of June 1, we have not been assigned a professional advisor. Our HAT Leader award requires the applicant to serve in some capacity for a minimum of one year with the High Adventure Team. Recognizing the demands placed on peoples' time, your HAT team will recognize participation with any Area 4 HAT team as meeting this requirement. Make sure to coordinate your efforts with the Awards Chairman.

**Equipment.** Bower distributed REI flyers on backpacking stoves. The information will help you choose the stove that is right for your unit.

**Awards.** Reminder: The Scout Shop has received new stocks of the John Muir, California State Park, and Gold Trail Saver Awards.

**Training.** The Rock and Rope Class ran with 6 students.

The Flyer for the new Fall ALBT Class is ready for release. See the separate article and sign-up sheet. The class will be conducted at Trask

on two Saturdays, September 16 and 30.

The Desert Class is accepting sign-up for September 9.

The rescheduled Junior Leader Backpack class for May was cancelled. The two troops who requested the revised training dates did not sign up.

**Forest & Conservation.** The Forest Service is doing extensive repair on the Rincon-Redbox Road. The road sustained major damage from the winter storms. Until the road is repaired, maintenance for the campsites along the Gabrielino Trail is being deferred.

National Trails Day was June 3. We had a work crew at Crystal Lake. The Forest Service Supervisor visited the project and was impressed with the efforts of our volunteers.

Ledford is currently supervising 3 Eagle Projects. Contact him with your unit's plans.

Effective immediately, the Silver Moccasin route has been changed due to extensive trail damage on the alternate route. See the separate article.

**Climbing.** The next Level 1 and 2 classes are scheduled for November. Sign-up sheets are available on the HAT website.

**TOUR PLAN.** There has been some discussion on a replacement for the discontinued Tour Plan but as of now, the national office has not committed to a replacement.

**Districts.** **Lucky Baldwin** is planning a religious hike in July. See the district website for details. **Pacifica** held an award ceremony for David Ledford receiving the Hornaday Award. Their June roundtable will include a refresher in map reading. The **CUB** Award of the month is the Webelos Overnighter from San Diego Imperial.

## INTERCOUNCIL MEETING

West LA County Council HAT hosted the Quarterly Intercouncil meeting on June 10 at the Council office. Representatives from West LA, San Diego, Verdugo Hills, and GLAAC attended.

HAT presence at the last Commissioners College was light. Only West LA attended and few councils provided handouts. The organizers have asked if HAT could put together a 50-minute class on High Adventure activities and resources for next year.

Communication among the various council High Adventure Teams can be pretty spotty. In order to encourage the free flow of information, WLACC has taken the lead and is working on building an Area 4 website. It will include a training calendar where all team leaders will have access to add their training schedules. The site will be Area4HAT.com. Keep checking for official launch.

Also along the lines of intercouncil communication, we need to develop a method of ensuring that all an individual's training records are forwarded to their home council. Several councils have received requests recently for replacement cards and if an individual has taken training outside their home council, the information may not be available. All Area 4 councils recognize each other's award forms and training, but the information on training is generally not shared among the various training chairs.

### **Council Reports**

- **SDIC:** Completed training for 250 in the past year across all programs. The speaker's bureau is growing and has proven to be popular with units, roundtables, and local organizations. A

list of topics can be found at <http://highadventure.sdicbsa.org/speakers.htm>.

- **WLACC:** Recently completed their Desert Backpack class for 7 students. Building an Area 4 website for email and calendar. As this resource comes on line, people will be able to view Area 4 HAT classes from all participating councils.

- **VHC:** Distributed training schedules for the remainder of 2017 and 2018. The schedules are also available at: <https://sites.google.com/site/bsahat/home/training>.

- **GLAAC:** Program Announcement 41 (The Silver Moccasin Trail) is being revised due to unsafe trail conditions. See the separate article below for details. The first ever Fall Adult Leader Backpacking class will be held over two Saturdays in September at Trask Scout Camp.

Long Beach Council will host the next meeting on September 9. Location TBD.

## **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT 41**



Forty-one! Oh yeah, that reminds me. Program Announcement 41, *Silver Moccasins Hike Detour* has been updated. In June 2015, the route for the Silver Moccasin Trail was redefined for a detour around an

endangered species habitat. In June of this year, the trail had to be rerouted again. A section of the trail between south fork Saddle and Islip Saddle has suffered severe damage from last winter's storms.

Two separate trail crews have done assessments and determined that due to erosion and several slides, the trail in its present condition is unsafe. The trail needs major repairs that cannot be completed in time for our peak hiking season.

Your high Adventure Team has come up with an alternate route that goes into effect immediately and will continue to be the designated route until further notice.

For comparison purposes, we will call the existing frog detour Route A and our update Route B. You can see that the overall difficulty of the hike is hardly changed.

	ROUTE A	ROUTE B
Distance	51.4 mi.	51.5 mi.
Tot. Gain	9900 ft.	9900 ft.
Tot. Loss	8100 ft.	8000 ft.
Bkpk hrs.	35.6 BPH	35.6 BPH

Route B starts at Shortcut Saddle, same as A. It follows Route A until you get to South Fork Campground. From here the route continues on the High Desert Trail (The Manzanita Trail on some maps) to Vincent Gap. From there you pretty much reverse direction and follow the ridge route to Mt. Baden-Powell and continue on to the conclusion of the hike at Islip Saddle.

If you are planning to do this hike this year, you need to make sure that your plans include the revised Route B.

**PATCH OF THE MONTH**  
**Silver Moccasin Trail Award**



Are we detecting a theme here?

Now that we have seen what the revisions are, it's obvious that even if you have done this hike before, you can do it again with a completely different look.

Some things haven't changed though. This is still a long-term hike that requires pre-approval. Your plan needs to include a trail profile/trail schedule (reverse side of the application form), menu, equipment list, roster of participants and transportation arrangements. Each participant shall have an up-to-date medical form and will have taken at least 2 weekend hikes within 90 days of the scheduled trip. For a complete refresher course on the requirements for this hike, see Hike Aid 6:

<http://glaac-hat.org/Awards.html> - **BACKPACKING**

As long as we're talking about alternate routes, how about the original hike? The Los Angeles Area Council created the Silver Moccasin Award in 1946 as a pair of cast silver moccasins suspended from a green ribbon. See what the medal looks like

today along with the requirements for earning it in Hike Aid 6.

In 1996, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Silver Moccasin Trail with a special patch. The basic patch adds the words "Golden Anniversary", the dates "1946 - 1996", and a gold numeral "50" overlaying the moccasins. If you were around back then and did this hike and lost you patch, or forgot to apply for it, check with Lilly in the Scout Shop. She has a limited number of replacements - and good luck finding the paperwork.

**HIKE OF THE MONTH**  
**Silver Moccasin Trail**

Location: Angeles National Forest  
Trailhead: Shortcut Saddle  
Total Mileage: 51.5  
Elevation Gain: 9900'  
Campsites: See Hike Aid  
Map: USGS Topographic  
Chilao Flat, Waterman Mtn.,  
Crystal Lake, all 7.5 min.

It just seemed like a natural. It is a little late to start planning the hike for this summer, but if you have been active in the spring, it might still be within reach if you need a backup due to forest fires or other plan-changing events across the state

See the hike description above in the article on Program Announcement 41.

**MORE TOUR PLAN**

In Trailhead #236 we suggested a few references to replace the information from the discontinued Tour Plan. In addition to the checklist we suggested at:

<http://highadventureawards.com/PDFs/HA3010.pdf>.

Another top-notch resource is the BSA's Passport to High Adventure. This publication is available online at: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoysScouts/PassporttoHighAdventure.aspx>.

If you prefer a paper copy, check with the Scout Shop before making the trip down there, they may have to order it.

The passport provides samples for equipment and responsibility check lists, budget planning, and permission slips, and lots of good information.

## TOTAL ECLIPSE

"To show my power, I will take away the sun!"

"If you're referring to the eclipse, it occurs on August twenty-first."



On Monday, August 21, all of North America will experience the rare phenomena of a solar eclipse. For the complete science-project explanation, check out the NOAA/NWS website: <http://w2.weather.gov/pqr/eclipse>. You can observe a partial eclipse

anywhere in the USA (weather permitting) but if you want to witness a total eclipse, you will have to do a little traveling.

Head north on US 101. About halfway between Coos Bay and Tillamook you will be in perfect position to greet the eclipse as it hits the west coast, just outside of Newport, OR.



After the eclipse, continue north and tour the Tillamook Cheese factory. The tours are free but good luck getting out of the gift shop for under \$100.

In that area, the eclipse will start around 9:05 PDT. From start to finish, it will last about 2 hours with the total eclipse lasting about 2 minutes. Another good area for viewing is Grand Teton National Park. You could camp there if you had gotten reservations a year ago.

Closer to home, in the Los Angeles area, we can expect the eclipse to max out at about 70%. Expect Mt. Wilson to be overcrowded and the campground at Mt. Palomar has been 100% booked for months. Just about anyplace with a clear view of the eastern sky will work for us. At eclipse time the sun will be between 39° and 45° above the horizon.

Whether you travel or not, there are a few things to keep in mind for viewing the eclipse.

1) Check the weather first. NOAA has compiled a chart of average cloud cover for August 21. This chart is based on 10 years worth of data. Based on that chart, it looks like another vote for the Grand Tetons.

Average Historical Cloudiness for August 21



2) DON'T LOOK AT IT! Sunglasses are not effective when looking directly at the sun. Believe it or not, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has a standard for filters for direct observation of the sun. It is ISO 12312-2. When you are shopping for safety glasses, look for the ISO certification printed somewhere on the product.

Currently, four manufacturers have certified their products to meet the requirements of ISO 12312-2:2015. They are Rainbow Symphony, American Paper Optics, Thousand Oaks Optical, and TSE 17. Meade Instruments and Celestron (a Torrance Company) use sun filters for their telescopes made by these companies.

For a complete tutorial on safety concerns, check out NASA's website: <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/>

### **ADULT LEADER BACKPACK TRAINING**

**\* NEW \*                      \* NEW \*                      \* NEW \***

For the first time ever, we are offering our basic Adult Leader Backpack Training class in the fall. The class will be offered on September 16 and 30 with an

additional weekend outing to be scheduled at the time of the class. The sessions will be the same as the February class, except that no overnight stay will be required.

For this training, 30 Scouters will descend on Trask Scout Reservation, north of Pasadena for classes in trek planning; equipment & clothing; menus & cooking; route finding and mountain travel; conservation; risk, health & safety, and High Adventure awards & procedures.

Registration opens at 6:30 with classes beginning at 8:00. Breakfast and lunch will be provided with the day's festivities wrapping up at 4:30.

The class is limited to 30 students and pre-registration is required. The class costs \$80, which must be received by September 8 in order to avoid a late fee.

See the information/sign-up sheet on page 10.

### **LATE-BREAKING NEWS**

This just released by Nathan Judy, Public Affairs / Fire Information Officer for the Forest Service.

**ARCADIA, Calif.** – Angeles National Forest (ANF) Fire Officials will raise the Fire Danger Level from “High” to “Very High” effective Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Live fuel moisture levels in shrubs and brush have decreased, grasses at lower elevations cured and fire activity has increased recently around the forest.

Be sure and check with the ranger before your next trip in the San Gabriels. Make sure your fire permit is still valid. The rangers have the authority to restrict or cancel permits in times of high fire danger.

# **Trail Boss Training-Fall 2017**

**SEP 2, 2017**

The USDA-Forest Service, Los Angeles River Ranger District, and the Greater Los Angeles Area Council-High Adventure Team invite you to attend the next of the on-going series of Trail Boss Training sessions.

- When: Sep 6, 2016; 8:00 am to not later than 3:00 pm.
- Where: Please contact one of the sources listed below, **after August 25**, for the location of this event and directions.

The objective of this High Adventure training is to train and qualify adult volunteers to organize and supervise conservation projects by sponsored groups, such as a Scout Unit. Interested persons may begin this field training whenever a session is offered and proceed through it at the convenience of their schedule and interest.

Only adults may take this training, which is offered free to anyone who is interested in doing conservation work in the Angeles National Forest. Registration is not required; just show up at the indicated time and place. Persons already certified as Trail Bosses are encouraged to attend, to assist with the training and to upgrade their skills.

The next session of Trail Boss Training is scheduled for May 2018, California Trails Day, April 2018, will also provide some training opportunities. An Administrative Pass, valid for this date, will be provided for vehicles that lack an Adventure Pass.

## **Clothing and Equipment**

Persons attending need to be dressed and equipped to do a full day of trail work. This includes long pants, long sleeve shirt, work boots, gloves, and a broad-brimmed hat. These are supplemented with sunscreen/sun block, dark glasses, insect repellent, and lots of water.

Sneakers/sport shoes are not appropriate wear when swinging a Pulaski and moving large rocks. Conservation project sites tend to be hot, sunny, dusty, and lunchrooms for insects. Bring your lunch and snacks. These training sessions are usually at remote sites in the Angeles.

## **Additional Information**

- USDA-Forest Service, LA River Ranger District , Little Tujunga Station,  
(Daytime): Dennis Merkel, Recreation Officer (818) 899-1900 X229  
email : [dmerkel@fs.fed.us](mailto:dmerkel@fs.fed.us).
- Dave Ledford, GLAAC-HAT Trail Boss Training: 1-310-373-2111  
email: [gdledford@verizon.net](mailto:gdledford@verizon.net)



# Desert Camping and Travel Training – 2017

This High Adventure training begins with a seminar Saturday, September 9, 2017, 8:00 am to about 4:00 pm, at the Cushman-Watt Service Center, 2333 Scout Way, Los Angeles. The seminar is conducted as a series of demonstrations and presentations. They consider the unique, harsh reality of the desert, and cover: special equipment and clothing; menu planning; desert travel and route finding; water requirements and conservation; safety and first aid; equipment and other needs for vehicles. A syllabus that covers the materials discussed will be given to each participant.

During the day, we will select a date and plan for a weekend field trip to Joshua Tree National Park (The park has a \$25.00 per vehicle entry fee). A backpack of about 5 miles, round trip, to a dry campsite, provides the opportunity to demonstrate the seminar topics.

A fee of \$20.00 is charged for the training. Registration is required by September 1. You will be sent a notice of cancellation if there are fewer than 5 sign-ups by that date. It is recommended that participants have attended Adult Leaders Backpack Training, as the topics covered here build on the basic information you received in that class.

Hike Aid 3, "Full Dimension High Adventure Training", has a complete discussion of the training activities of the LAAC-HAT. It may be downloaded from the Council High Adventure website at: <http://glaac-hat.org/HikeAids.html>. Questions about this class are to be directed to Tarin Casillas, Course Director: (310) 515-3647; e-mail, [ticasillas@msn.com](mailto:ticasillas@msn.com).

**Online registration** with check, paypal or credit card is available at <http://glaac-hat.org/register> or mail the following with your check.

----- Detach and include with your check -----

## **Desert Camping and Travel Training-2017**

Please register me for attendance at this GLAAC-HAT conducted training program. A check for \$20.00, payable to the Boy Scouts of America-GLAAC, is enclosed. I understand that I may incur other nominal expenses in order to complete it.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit No.: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Greater Los Angeles Area Council-BSA  
3450 Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91107

**Attn: Danette: Camping Department**

# Adult Leaders Backpack Training Fall 2017

The Greater Los Angeles Area Council's High Adventure Team will conduct its Fall 2017 backpack training program for adult Scouters on **two Saturdays**: Sept. 16, and Sept. 30, with a weekend backpack outing to be arranged.

The objectives are:

- To acquaint you with a basic understanding of how to plan and conduct outdoor activities
- To stimulate your participation and leadership in a High Adventure Program at the Unit level
- To inform you of the many programs and activities of the GLAAC-HAT.

This High Adventure training provides an overview of the necessities for safe and enjoyable outings. The importance of training and transferring leadership to your Scouts is stressed. While the emphasis is on backpacking, it is generally applicable to all types of outdoor activities. This is the next step beyond the camp-craft skills that are covered in Outdoor Leadership Skills (OLS).

The seminar is conducted at the Trask Scout Reservation. Registration takes place 6:30-8:00am on Sept. 16. The programs will run from 8am-4:30pm on both Saturdays. Breakfast and lunch are provided. Participants may bring their gear and camp (free) at the facility. Also, please bring a compass, paper and pencil – everything else is provided. A syllabus that covers the materials discussed will be given to each participant.

A fee of \$80.00 is charged for this training, when received at GLAAC-Camping by Sept.8th; \$90.00, after that date. This fee includes breakfast and lunch on both Saturdays. **Early registration is mandatory to ensure sufficient meals, snacks, and course materials. This class is strictly limited to 30 participants.** Persons whose registration is received by Sept.8th will be sent a confirmation, map to the location, and other details. Completion of this training is recognized by the award of a special patch.

**Online registration & payment** is available at <http://glaac-hat.org/register>. Or you may mail the following with a check.

----- Detach and include with your check -----

## **Adult Leaders Backpack Training – Fall 2017**

Please register me for attendance at this GLAAC-HAT training program. A check for \$80.00, payable to the "Boy Scouts of America – GLAAC", is enclosed (\$90.00, after Sept. 8th). I understand that I may incur other nominal expenses in order to complete it.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (Res.): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit No.: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dietary restrictions if any (please be specific): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Greater Los Angeles Area Council-BSA  
3450 Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
**Attn: Danette, Camping Department**