

# Unit Backpack Training

## WHAT IS IT?

UNIT BACKPACK TRAINING for Scouts is a week-end training program designed for youth so they can learn basic backpacking and trail camping under their own adult leadership. Unit equipment and backpacks are provided by the Council. This program is especially applicable to those units with little or no experience or equipment. The MSR "T" Patch will be awarded to all participants, youth and adult, who successfully complete this training.

## WHERE?

This weekend backpack training starts at the HAT equipment shed, at Mataguay Scout Reservation at 8:00 AM Saturday morning. The shed is located next to the barn near the end of the paved road (follow the signs towards the Conference Center). Backpacks, lightweight mountain cook kits, propane fuel stoves and tube tents are issued at this time. A six-mile loop trail is backpack hiked, ending at a trail camp in MSR. High Sierra Trek-experienced instructors from the HAT provide guidance, instruction and help along the trail and in camp.

## WHEN?

The second weekend of each month, January through May plus October and November. It starts at 8:00 AM Saturday and ends at noon on Sunday.

## SIGN-UP & COST

Reserve early! The \$2.00 fee per participant must be paid to the Trading Post at least three weeks in advance to retain spaces reserved; otherwise they go to the waiting list. Fees are refundable only if requested over three weeks in advance of the Saturday scheduled or if the HAT cancels the training session. NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy. Pay to Account 1-6801-620-20 at San Diego-Imperial Council headquarters.

## CANCELLATION by INSTRUCTOR

If less than fifteen persons are signed up by Friday, three weeks preceding the scheduled weekend, it may be cancelled at the option of the instructor. Units signed up when (if) a session is cancelled will be notified not later than the following Wednesday.

## MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE

The maximum number of youth and adults that can be accommodated with gear is 36. This usually includes more than one unit. Additional units may be accepted if equipment is available. Participants are encouraged to bring their own equipment so more can be accommodated. "Provisional" youth are not accepted; all youth must be under their own adult leadership.

## EQUIPMENT

### COUNCIL PROVIDES:

One Sierra type backpack per person  
One tube tent for each two persons  
Mountain cook kit  
Spoon, ladle & spatula, if desired  
Propane backpacker's stove  
16 oz. Propane bottle for each cooking crew of 4

### UNIT OR INDIVIDUAL PROVIDES:

1 Gallon plastic water container- empty  
Group First Aid kit (including moleskin)  
Individuals and units should bring their own dishwashing soap & scrubber, packs, tents, stoves, etc. if they have them.

For each crew of four:

One-pot meal for Saturday dinner  
Hot Sunday breakfast

Repack food into "crew" size packages using Ziploc bags.

Do not bring any glass containers, axes, or sheath knives.

Only a limited number of adult size backpacks available for loan. (Adults should consider borrowing or renting one.)

## INDIVIDUAL ALSO PROVIDES:

Quart plastic water bottle (full; more in hot weather)

Saturday cold trail lunch

Trail snacks

Stainless steel Sierra cup or plastic cup

Spoon (knife & fork optional)

Folding scout knife (with Totin' Chip)

Sunglasses

Sleeping bag (plan on 30°F at night)

Hiking boots/shoes (tennis O.K. depending upon weather conditions)

Uniform or other loose fitting clothes (leave your tight jeans behind. Bring wool or synthetic in the winter.

Bring clothing appropriate for the weather.)

Wide brim hat or visor cap

Wool or synthetic watch cap in winter

Clean undershirt

Clean wool or synthetic socks (light & heavy)

Windbreaker (parka type recommended)

Wool or synthetic sweater and/or shirt (both in winter)

Rain suit (lightweight plastic)

Pack raincover (large trash bag will work)

Matches

Flashlight (small, light)

Small plastic trowel (for digging personal latrine)

## KEEP IT LIGHT - YOU HAVE TO CARRY IT !!

### COORDINATOR for UNIT BACKPACK TRAINING:

Fred Small : (619) 275-5054

Fsmall1@san.rr.com

or call Boy Scout Headquarters Camping Section  
(619) 298-6121