

CLIMB OF HP 4391' VIA A "5-MILE HIKE"

From the Wash between Parker and Indian Rock

The Camping Merit Badge now has an optional requirement for a 1000' elevation gain hike. There is a 5-mile hike requirement to become a Second Class scout. This trip describes how to climb the highpoint northeast of Mataguay by a route that will also provide a 5-mile hike. Actually, the full loop is a 6.3-mile hike. A mile could cut from this hike, by leaving a car in the parking area behind the Conference Center casita #3.

This hike starts at Silva Lodge. Go to the Lake Henry parking lot side of the building (See Map). Face the building and turn right and take the trail that goes down through the Squirrel Campsite. After it passes the path to the Squirrel flagpole it comes to a junction. One path goes to the center of Jackrabbit. Turn half left and descend to the paved road (0.1). Follow this paved road down past the overflow parking to a low spot where it crosses the major wash. (0.2) **This is the low point of this hike at 2360' that is needed for the 1000' gain.**

Look for the parking space to the right of the road a few yards past the wash. Walk into it and look for a path that switchbacks up to the Indian Rock headquarters building. Here turn left and follow a concrete ditch up to the Indian Rock Parking Lot. Turn right and follow this road to the main road through camp and turn right. (0.2)

Go over a slight rise and along a flat. There is a fence on the left side of the road. Near the end of the flat there is a metal gate in this fence. (0.08) Pass through the gate and then turn right on the jeep trail on the other side. You are now on Vista Irrigation District Lands. Please take care of them so we can continue to do this hike.

Follow the dirt trail along the fence as it climbs a bit and drops into a gully. It will turn up this gully. Turn right when the wash splits. Follow it until it reaches a junction with a jeep trail (0.5). Here you turn left and follow this trail as it climbs up to the ridge (1.1) (2.2 miles).

Follow this ridge south until the jeep trail goes down a south ridge and the main ridge goes east (0.3). Here you turn east and go down and up across two saddles to reach the ridge **high point of 4391'** (0.2). You have now completed the 1000' gain requirement for the Camping Merit Badge and hiked 2.7 miles.

Now follow the ridge back 0.2 miles to the trail that goes left and drops down the valley to the remains of an old jeep trail in a wash. Look for flagging on a bush that marks the location of the Mataguay Connector Trail (MCT) as it joins our route. (0.5) Now the combined trails climb to the Big Oak. (0.3).

From the Big Oak follow the jeep trail south over a small rise and look for the MCT as it drops down towards the bush. Follow this trail south through the meadow and down the hill into the scout ranch. Continue on the MCT as it drops past the trail to the back gate (0.8), the future horseback trail (0.4), the **HALTT trail to Upper Lake** (0.1).

Route to Conference Center Parking Lot: At this point you have hike 4.7 miles. If you have left a car in the lot behind the Conference Center, turn left across a shallow wash. The HALTT trail goes through some woods to the back of camp road. After it crosses this road it contours around the hill to a junction with the South Side Trail under the zip-line. At this point turn down the steep jeep road. Soon it hits the back of camp road. Follow it down to the parking lot. (From Silva Lodge to here you have walked 5.1 miles)

Or Continue back to Silva Lodge: The Mataguay Connector Trail passes the junction with the South Side trail which goes to Upper Lake (0.2). It goes down to the Barn Bridge Trail (2.1 miles). Continue down the canyon and take the nature trail up across a wash and on to the Crow Campsite and a dirt road.

Turn right on this dirt road and follow it down to a switchback at the Hope Campsite. Don't turn on this switchback, but continue on the trail in front of you. This is the Slant Bridge Trail. It will take you across the paved road and up the dining hall. On the lower right side of campfire bowl there is a trail that leads down to **Silva Lodge**. Total: 6.6 miles.

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