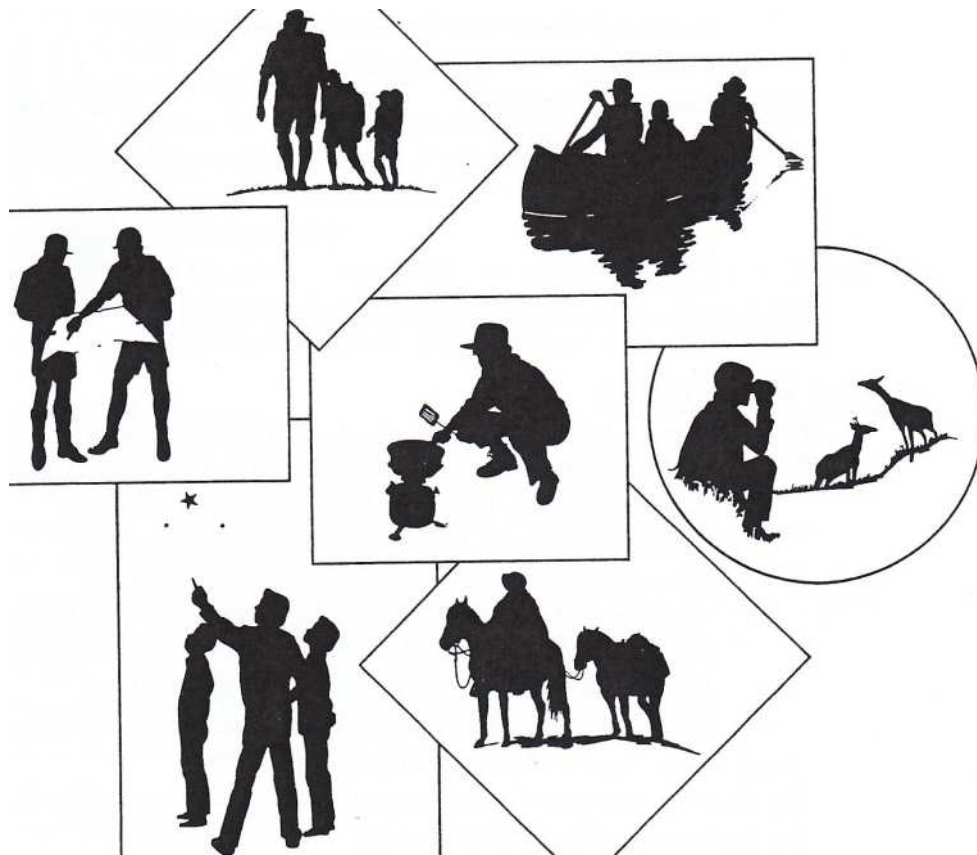
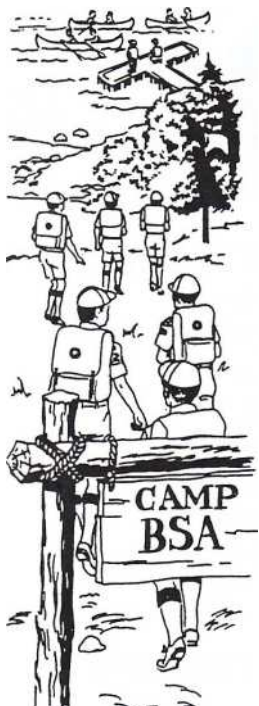


Bay Area Camping Opportunities

SFBAC University of Scouting — 01/24/09

Michael "Nature Guy" Andrews — sierrascout@sbcglobal.net



Camping! For nearly a hundred years, Scouts have been setting out on overnight adventures under the open skies. They have felt the sun on their backs and the wind in their faces. When storms broke overhead, they used their learned skills to stay dry and warm. When a morning dawned brisk and clear, they were sure there was no better way to feel alive. Lord Baden-Powell knew that as well. When he founded the Scouting movement in the early 1900's, he encouraged every Scout to master the art of living out-of-doors. He believed a young person able to take care of himself while camping would have the confidence to meet life's other challenges too.

Times are different now. We are more likely to travel by automobile or mass transit here in the San Francisco Bay Area, than on foot or horseback. Most of us live in large communities, and the wonders of modern technology have changed our lives in ways that Baden-Powell would barely recognize. But the one thing that has not changed is the deep satisfaction and enjoyment that comes with camping. Boy Scouts everywhere are still eager to head out for a few days of living in the great outdoors. Here in Northern California especially, the natural combination of spectacular scenery, incredible natural diversity, easy accessibility to dozens of parks nearby, and the mild weather year-round where the sun shines on golden hills and the gentle wind blows off the Pacific Ocean makes for a region ideal for overnight adventures. There are many new adventures just waiting for you to inspire your boys to understand the Patrol Method. When you are camping with Scouts, you can have the time of your life working, playing and learning together. More than ever you will be immersed in the great Scouting tradition!

"San Francisco Bay Area – Naturally"

Put the Outing in Scouting

Helping Youth Gain Environmental Awareness

Participation in District & Council Programs

Developing a Successful Unit Outdoors Program

Regional Geography

Weather, Climate and Seasonal Considerations

Flora and Fauna Opportunities

Local Habitat Communities

Pacific Shoreline

Coastal Ranges

Bay Marshlands

High Chaparral

Inland Valleys

Impress your Scouts with location, location, location!



Local Resources:

Boy Scouts of America, National Council (<http://scouting.org>)

San Francisco Bay Area Council, San Leandro (<http://www.sfbac.org>)

Golden Empire Council, Sacramento (<http://gec-bsa.org>)

Greater Yosemite Council, Modesto (<http://www.yosemitescouting.org>)

Marin Council, San Rafael (<http://www.boyscouts-marin.org>)

Monterey Bay Area Council, Salinas (<http://boyscoutsmontereybayarea.org>)

Mt. Diablo Silverado Council, Pleasant Hill (<http://bsa-mdsc.org>)

Pacific Skyline Council, Foster City (<http://pacsky.org>)

Santa Clara County Council, San Jose (<http://scccbsa.org>)

Angel Island State Park, Tiburon (<http://angelisland.org>)

Bay Area Open Space Council (<http://openspacecouncil.org/guides> & <http://parkinfo.org>)

Bay Nature magazine (<http://baynature.org>)

California Department of Parks and Recreation (<http://parks.ca.gov>)

California State Parks Foundation (<http://calparks.org>)

East Bay Regional Parks District headquarters, Oakland (<http://ebparks.org>)

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (<http://nps.gov/goga>); Marin Headlands Visitors Center

Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics (<http://lnt.org>)

Mount Diablo State Park, Clayton/Danville (<http://mdia.org>)

Pinnacles National Monument (<http://www.nps.gov/pinn>)

Point Reyes National Seashore (<http://nps.gov/pore>); Bear Valley and Drakes Beach Visitors Centers

San Francisco Bay Area Hiker: Camping (<http://bahiker.com>)

Santa Clara County Parks (<http://sccgov.org>)

Weekend Sherpa San Francisco LLC (<http://weekendsherpa.com>)

Text References:

Afoot & Afield: San Francisco Bay Area, a comprehensive hikers guide by David Weintraub

Backpacking & Hiking, Companion a DK Eyewitness Companion by Karen Berger

Best Easy Day Hikes, San Francisco Bay by Salcedo

Best Hikes with Children, San Francisco Bay Area by McMillon & McMillon

Best in Tent Camping, Northern California by Jane & Hans Huber with Bill Mai (3rd edition)

BSA Fieldbook, Fourth Edition

BSA Guide to Safe Scouting for Unit Activities

BSA Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

BSA Merit Badge Series booklets: *Backpacking, Camping, Hiking, Wilderness Survival California Camping* by Tom Stienstra

Camping & Backpacking the San Francisco Bay Area by Matt Heid & Wilderness Press

Golden Gate National Recreation Area Guide to the Parks by Okamoto

Leave No Trace, Minimum Impact Outdoor Recreation by Will Harmon & American Hiking Society

L.L. Bean Hiking and Backpacking Handbook by McCafferty

Monterey Bay Shoreline Guide by Jeff Emory

Point Reyes: A Guide by Dorothy Whitnah

Point Reyes Visions Guidebook by Goodwin & Blair

San Francisco Bay Shoreline Guide by California State Coastal Conservancy

Where Else to Go Camping booklet by Achewon Nimat Lodge, Order of the Arrow, SFBAC

San Francisco Bay Area Council Properties:

Camp Royaneh, Austin Creek Valley off Cazadero Hwy and Russian River Rd, Sonoma County

Rancho Los Mochos, South Livermore Hills off Mines Rd and Tesla Rd, Alameda County

Wente Scout Reservation, near town of Willits off Canyon Rd, Mendocino County

Greater Bay Area BSA Council Camps:

Boulder Creek Scout Reservation, Pacific Skyline Council; in the Santa Cruz Mtns, Boulder Creek

Camp Herms, Mt. Diablo Silverado Council; in the East Bay Hills by Wildcat Canyon, El Cerrito

Camp Isom, Greater Yosemite Council; on Orestimba Creek in the Diablo Range, Newmar

Camp Lindblad, Mt. Diablo Silverado Council; in the Santa Cruz Mtns, Boulder Creek

Camp McConnell, Greater Yosemite Council; on Merced River in the Central Valley, Livingston

Camp Pollock, Golden Empire Council; on the American River Parkway, Sacramento

Chesebrough Scout Reservation, Santa Clara Council; in the Santa Cruz Mtns, Los Gatos

Cutter Scout Reservation, Pacific Skyline Council; in the Santa Cruz Mtns, Boulder Creek

Tamarancho, Marin Council; in the Mt. Tamalpais foothills, Fairfax

Regional Public Access Camping Areas:

Sonoma Coast

Austin Creek State Recreation Area; off Armstrong Redwoods Rd near Guerneville

Porno Canyon & Willow Creek Environmental Camps; off Willow Creek Rd, Russian River mouth

Bodega Dunes Campground; off Bodega Bay Harbor on Sonoma Coast State Beach

Wine Country

Bothe-Napa Valley State Park; off Hwy 29 near Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, Calistoga

Spring Lake Regional Park; off Hwy 12 near Annadel State Park, Santa Rosa

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park; off Adobe Canyon Rd near Kenwood

Lake Solano County Park; off Hwy 128 in foothills by Putah Creek near Winters

Marin County

Black Ranch Meadows Campground; by San Pablo Bay in China Camp State Park, San Rafael

Madrone & Devil's Gulch group camps; on Lagunitas Creek in Samuel P. Taylor State Park

Sky, Coast, Wildcat and Glen backpack camps; on Point Reyes National Seashore, West Marin

Steep Ravine Environmental Camp; on Rocky Point in Mount Tamalpais State Park, Muir Beach

Pantoll Ranger Station Environmental Camp; in Mount Tamalpais State Park, Mill Valley

Haypress & Hawk backpack camps; above Tennessee & Rodeo Valleys, Marin Headlands, Sausalito

Kirby Cove & Bicentennial camps on the Morin Headlands, Golden Gate National Rec Area

Angel Island State Park environmental camps; on San Francisco Bay, Tiburon