

Orange County Council High Adventure Team
Fall 2019 Basic Backpack
San Gorgonio Wilderness, San Bernardino National Forest
Forsee Creek Trailhead /John's Meadow
Saturday, October 12 - Sunday, October 13, 2019

Trek Leaders:

Brian Pitterle – brianpitterle@gmail.com - (949) 400-5335
Darrell Branine – dwbranine@cox.net – (949) 633-2350

Directions to the trailhead: We will meet at the Forsee Creek trailhead parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Please plan to have breakfast prior to meeting at the trailhead.

The best route from Orange County locations: get on the 91 Freeway and go east (towards Riverside). Junction with Interstate 10 and go east. Exit Interstate 10 at Hwy 38 / Orange Street in Redlands. Follow Hwy 38 signs for a right on E. Lugonia Blvd. The McDonald's at the southwest corner of N. Wabash (which is 2.5 miles from Orange Street) is a frequent breakfast stop for this trip. This is also where E. Lugonia changes names to Mentone Blvd (all still Hwy 38).

Stay on Hwy 38 and the Mill Creek Ranger Station will be on the right in approx. 5.5 miles from the McDonald's. Continue on Hwy 38 and in approx. 16.5 miles past the Mill Creek R.S., turn right off of Highway 38 onto Jenks Lake Rd. In approximately 0.3 miles turn right onto Forsee Creek Rd and drive 0.5 miles more to the trailhead.

Remember that the United States Forest Service Adventure Pass Program is in effect. To park your car on forest service lands, you will need to display an Adventure Pass in your front window. The Adventure Pass is available for sale at R.E.I., Sport Chalet and Big 5 Sporting Goods and costs \$30, good for one year. This pass must be purchased ahead of time by each driver as there will not be time to purchase the pass on Saturday morning.

Backpack itinerary: Saturday's hike will be approximately 3.1 miles starting from the Forsee Creek Trailhead (6760') and ending at John's Meadow (7260'), a popular backcountry campsite in the San Gorgonio Wilderness. We will conduct some navigation exercises along the way, pitch our tents at camp, consider techniques for bringing scouts into the wilderness ... and relax. Time permitting, those interested may continue with a short day hike to Columbine Springs (8000') along a "lightly maintained" trail ... which basically means we can continue working on our navigation skills! On Sunday, we'll have a quick breakfast and return to the trailhead early.

USGS Topo 7.5 minute series: Big Bear Lake, CA

Tom Harrison Maps: San Gorgonio Wilderness Trail Map

Hikers should carry 2 to 3 liters of water and trail lunch for Saturday's hike. Expect high 60's during the day and mid to low 30's at night. The campsite is expected to have an adequate water source (Forsee Creek).

Backpack checklist: Refer to the Basic Backpack course materials. Bring 10 essentials. Patrols should plan Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast.

Emergency contact: San Gorgonio Wilderness Area, Mill Creek Ranger Station, 3401 Mill Creek Road, Mentone, California 92359, phone (909) 382-2881.