



Forget Yosemite - Find All You Need for a Great Vacation Right Here!



Rock Climbing

Situated in Eastern Fresno County's big backyard is the "lost sister" to Yosemite's ever captivating Tuolumne Meadows. This Courtright Reservoir location boasts the same qualities as that of the terrain found in upper Yosemite. *See Page 4.*



Dog Friendly Environment

Camping with dogs can be fun? The reasons to take your dog camping far outweigh leaving them behind. Remember, you got a dog in the first place to share adventures together, right? So do it here in our big backyard! *See Page 28.*



Scenic Hiking Trails

Hiking enthusiasts have great choices in the region, from the Pacific Crest and John Muir trails that meander through the backcountry, to the scenic day hikes that abound around Dinkey Creek, Huntington Lake and Shaver Lake. *See Page 8.*

No Entrance Fees - No Crowds - No Traffic Congestion



Walk Thru Giant Sequoias

McKinley Grove, an isolated patch of Giant Sequoias, is a few miles above Dinkey Creek. A paved path leads to over 20 big trees. The grove is very scenic. Visitors stop here on their way to high country lakes and trails. *See Page 5.*



Relax in Warm Hot Springs

Located close to the San Joaquin River, near the Mono Hot Springs campground, are several hot springs. Many were cemented in to make them more comfortable by men working on the Florence Lake Dam in the 1920s. *See Page 30.*



Enjoy Off Road Adventures

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) users will be thrilled with the many opportunities for off-highway vehicle enjoyment in the Sierra National Forest. There are several trails available, some are easy, others are very challenging. *See Page 15.*



Mountain Biking

Highway 168 is a challenging stretch of road for cyclers, leading to several scenic trails, throughout Eastern Fresno County. *See Page 26.*

Enjoy Fishing in Regional Lakes and Streams

Anglers, young and old alike, have access to large bodies of water, alpine lakes and streams teeming with fish to test their skills. *See Page 27 and 29.*

SHAVER LAKE TIMES All the news that fits we print!

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Horseback Riding

Have fun with family or friends. Spend an hour or so horseback riding in the forest, or plan an extended backcountry pack trip. *See Page 21.*

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Family Woodcutting Adventure Can Be Both Fun and Profitable

Looking for a new adventure to share with the kids. Spend a weekend in the Sierra National Forest camping with the family and friends, while you cut and gather firewood.

This activity is economical, as it reduces your winter heating costs as you keep warm with an efficient fireplace or wood stove.

Each year from April 1st to November 30th, the Forest Service sells firewood cutting permits to the public. You can take up to 10 cords of “dead and down” wood for \$5.00 per cord. You must purchase at least four cords.

A standard cord is a stack of

wood, tightly packed 4 feet wide by 4 feet high by 8 feet long. That equates to a couple of loads in an 8 foot pickup bed.

You must attach a load receipt for each 1/4 cord of wood in the load before leaving the wood-cutting site! Stop by the U.S. Forest Service Office in Prather at the junction of Auberry and Morgan Canyon Roads to obtain your permit. Call them for further details at 559 855-5355.

For information about wood cutting and gathering at Camp Edison for the Shaver Lake regions, please call 841-3134 ext. 6.



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Mountain Climbing Adventures Around Courtright Rival Yosemite



Here you can see the number of climbing adventures in which you can take part that are located around Courtright Reservoir. There is camping available and the fishing is great!

California is the Holy Grail for mountain climbers. The undeniable draw of Yosemite National Park is well known. In the Eastern Sierra, the Owen's River Gorge beckons you. Joshua Tree National Park in the Mojave Desert is for those that love the challenge of free-standing and stacked boulders.

Here in our big backyard is the "lost sister" to Yosemite's ever captivating Tuolumne Meadows. As the crow flies, Courtright Reservoir is located due east of Shaver Lake. This location boasts the same qualities as that of the terrain found in upper Yosemite. Pristine, high quality granite domes torture a climber's imagination and entices any adventurer to scout the infinite possibilities.

The signature landmark here is the 500 foot high Power Dome. Teeming with a host of 5-pitch, friction scare-a-thons, Power Dome will make a marked impression in the minds and hearts of inspiring rock jocks. Scattered around the perimeter of the reservoir are a myriad of other domes and walls. Trapper, Spring, Maxon, Penstemon and Dusy are just a few domes that provide countless adventures, where traditional and sport climbs abound.

Although the domes provide ample friction, smear and fine edge climbing routes, Courtright also offers several crack climbs at areas like Tiger Wall and Tiger Cage. Best of all, you won't find yourself pulling from the ticker-tape to wait your place in line for a route, nor is there any entrance fee into the Sierra National Forest.

There are paid campsites available in Courtright, maintained by PG&E for \$25 per night. The campsites are provided with picnic tables, fire pits, water and pit toilets. There are two sites: Voyager Rock on the shore (14 tent sites only) and Trapper Springs on the western shoreline, 2.2 miles to the north, with 75 tents sites and 45 trailer sites. This campground is within stone's throw distance to both Spring Dome (aka Marmot Dome) and Trapper Dome.



The "lost sister" to the massive granite facings in Tuolumne Meadows is at Courtright.

Although a fire permit is required for any campfire constructed in the national forest, the remaining amenities are FREE! Permits can be acquired at the Sierra National Forest building, in Prather along 168. For reservations to both campgrounds, call 877-444-6777.

Use Greg Vernon's *Southern Sierra Rock Climbing: Sequoia/Kings Canyon* guidebook. It was written in 1993 and is extremely helpful. It is available from Amazon.com. This guidebook provides ample information on the "how's, where's, what's and when's" to Courtright climbing.

What Can You Expect With the Regional Cell Phone and WiFi Service Availability

The Eastern Fresno County mountains are not known to be real cell phone or internet friendly.

Your kids will hate the fact they cannot easily recharge their phones or keep in constant contact with their friends. That will probably bug you too!



Smart phones seldom work very well in the backcountry region of Fresno County.

But that can be a really good thing. Use this time to help educate the young and old alike, regarding the great outdoors!

After a family hike, a dip in the lake, a fishing adventure, a horse-back ride, rock climbing or another fun event, have them express how they feel about what they learned from the experience.

When you pack for your trip, be sure to include a box of crayons, a few pencils and a large blank pad for each of the kids. You might also enjoy having these items for the adults as well!



Have your kids write stories or make drawings of the various activities they have done.

Then have everyone draw a picture and/or write an explanation of the adventure that they can share with other family members and friends not along on the vacation. Perhaps they can create a journal of their vacation.

Thus, they have an educational experience with art and writing that end up being a form of story telling.

Who knows. Perhaps a budding graphic artist, journalist or designer will be born!

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Beautiful Grove of Giant Sequoia Trees Is Just Up the Road from Dinkey Creek

Eastern Fresno County is blessed with many treasures. Most visitors are not aware that they can take a short drive and see some magnificent Giant Sequoias.

Shaver Lake is the hub leading to many adventures. Just drive up the Dinkey Creek Road, turn right on the McKinley Grove Road and soon you can walk through these trees.



Walk amongst some huge Sequoia trees at McKinley Grove. Great spot for a picnic.

While California's Coastal Redwoods are the world's tallest trees, Giant Sequoias are the world's largest, with trees averaging 15 feet in diameter and 250 feet tall.

The McKinley Grove is an isolated patch of Giant Sequoias. A short paved path leads through a cluster of about 20 big trees.

There is a lovely area with several camp style tables as well as restrooms for your convenience. Enjoy a picnic with family and friends among these giant trees.

Stroll through the grove on the paved nature trail, which is accessible for persons with disabilities. For the more adventurous, wander into the Giant Sequoias and you will find a huge stump of a downed giant. There is a seasonal stream that meanders through this beautiful location.

Make sure to bring along your camera, or use your smart-phone to take some amazing photographs.

Enjoy the peaceful quiet of the forest sanctuary or simply relax under the canopy of this cool, shady grove of majestic giants.

Pets are allowed, on leash. Please pick up after your pet, and do not permit your pets to chase wildlife.

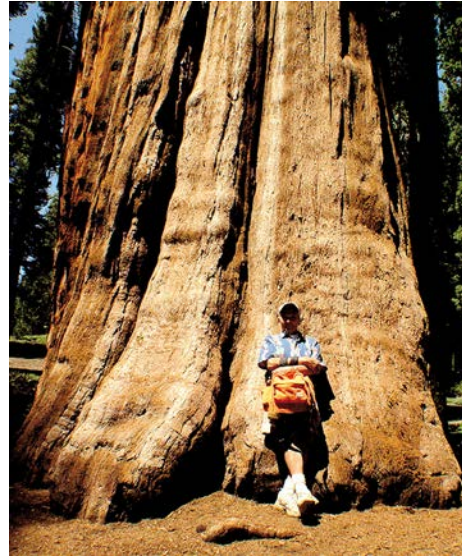


Photo with man gives perspective of how gigantic the Giant Sequoias really are!



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Play Some Cool Games As You Unplug On Your Vacation

Bear Catcher

In this game of tag, one player is the bear catcher and the rest are bears. Place one sleeping bag for each bear around the campsite. Have each bear go to his cave (sit on a sleeping bag) and have the bear catcher stand in the center of the play area. On the word "go" (called by a non-player), the bears must race to a new cave before the bear catcher can tag them. When a player is tagged, he becomes the new bear catcher.

side, several feet away from the full ones. Line the teams up at the full buckets and hand each team a canteen. Team members must race to fill the empty buckets with the water from the full buckets, using only the canteen to transfer the water.

Backpack Pass

Place some chocolate squares for your campfire s'mores into a small, brown paper bag. Write a command on the outside of the bag, such as, "Dance a jig."

Then place that bag inside another



Evenings gatherings on vacation can be even more enjoyable by taking part in games family and friends can play together. Here are a few that can easily be played by all ages.



**Pack It In
Pack It Back Out**

Keep the forest clean!

Canteen Bucket Brigade

Divide campers into two teams. Place two large buckets of water side by side, at one end of the campsite, and two empty buckets, side by

side, several feet away from the full ones. Line the teams up at the full buckets and hand each team a canteen. Team members must race to fill the empty buckets with the water from the full buckets, using only the canteen to transfer the water.

Place the collection of bags inside of a camping backpack. Set the graham crackers and marshmallows out, but inform campers that in order to retrieve the chocolate, they must participate in the backpack game.

Have everyone sit around the campfire and begin passing the backpack as you play music.

When you stop the music, the player holding the bag must open the first bag, stand up and perform the task.

Continue playing in this manner until everyone has performed a command and the bag containing the chocolate is revealed.

Scavenger Hunt

What better way to explore your campsite than with a scavenger hunt? Hide various pieces of camp-

ing gear for the kids to find, or make lists of things they would find in your campsite's environment. In the woods, for instance, items to find could include an acorn, a red leaf, a piece of bark and a yellow flower.

Give them the list and have them hunt for the items. You can set a prize for the player who finds the most items within a set time period, or give a reward for everyone who completes the list during your camp out.

Campfire Relay

Divide campers into two teams. Set up two sets of supplies needed to build a campfire (paper, wood, rocks) and on the word "go," have players race to gather supplies and build their own campfires (minus the actual fire part). The first team to complete the building of a campfire wins.



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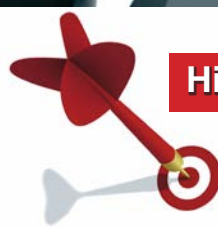
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20 Weird and Wonderful Facts About Forest Trees and Wood

The planet is very dependent upon trees. The following are some interesting facts about wood and the trees from which it comes.

1. Wood is made up of a combination of living, dying and dead cells.
2. The world's shortest tree is the dwarf willow, in northerly and Arctic Tundra regions and rarely grows more than a couple of inches high.
3. The tallest trees can grow as high as 100m, more than 320 feet. They include the Coast Redwood, Giant Sequoia, Sitka Spruce and Australian Mountain Ash.
4. The world's tallest living standing hardwood tree is a Mountain Ash called Centurion in Tasmania. It's about 329 feet 8 ¾ inches high.
5. Trees never die of old age. Instead, insects, diseases and people are usually the killers.
6. The mighty Giant Sequoia is thought by many to be the biggest living organism in the world, although a 2,400 acre fungus mycelium in eastern Oregon – almost ten square kilometers of it – is a strong if less-visible contender.
7. The world is home to more than 23,000 different kinds of trees.
8. The terms softwood and hardwood describe the leaves, seeds and structure of the trees rather than the type of wood they produce.
9. Redwood bark can be as much

- as two feet thick.
 10. City trees tend to live an average of 13 years less than country trees.
 11. The Amazon Basin is the biggest area of tropical forest on earth, a whopping eight and a half million acres.
 12. The plane tree, common in London's streets, is excellent at absorbing pollution and sheds its bark regularly so it can absorb more.
 13. Just one tree can absorb as much as 48 pounds of carbon dioxide a year and can sequester a ton of CO2 safely by the time it's 40 years old, which is why they're so important in the battle against climate change.
 14. It is interesting that Balsa is actually a hardwood!
 15. Every US state has its own official tree (California's is the Giant Sequoia).
 16. Softwoods are not always softer than hardwoods.
 17. White oak is the easiest wood to bend using steam.
 18. Buddha experienced enlightenment under the wisdom tree.
 19. The Osage Orange tree's wood generates the most heat when burned.
 20. The tree with the widest diameter trunk is the African Baobab, just under 50 feet across with a 155 foot circumference.
- (Excerpt from wood-finishes-direct.com)*



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The Pacific Crest Trail stretches 2,665 miles from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon and Washington. Muir Trail Ranch and Vermilion Valley Resort are resupply points.

Pacific Crest Trail Runs Close By Edison Lake and Florence Lake

Approximately 49 miles from Shaver Lake, lies Vermilion Valley Resort (VVR) at Edison Lake and the Muir Trail Ranch, just beyond Florence Lake.

These facilities are gateways to the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) which is 2,665 miles long, stretching from the Mexico to the Canadian border.

Nearly 3,000 people strike out to hike the length of the PCT each year. Many hike portions of the trail, called "section hiking".

The PCT "section" near Shaver Lake, joins with the John Muir Trail (JMT) from Mt. Whitney to Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite.

This is quintessential high mountain terrain consisting of glaciers, thousands of sky blue lakes, lush alpine meadows, high snow covered passes and soaring granite peaks.

A successful PCT hike depends

on planning and getting off the trail at times, for gear, food, fuel, and other supplies is very important.

In this region VVR and the Muir Trail Ranch offer resupply programs. Detailed information is available online at either EdisonLake.com or MuirTrailRanch.com

Hikers will find there is ferry boat service at both lakes to transport hikers to and from the trailheads that meander back to the PCT.

There is van service available to and from the Fresno area and can accommodate up to 12 hikers and their gear.

The hiker van service runs between VVR, Mono Hot Springs and Florence Lake and the Fresno Airport, Amtrak and Greyhound stations. YARTS stops are available for those hikers that are planning on going to access Yosemite.

Volunteers Work to Make Trail Hikes at Shaver Lake Possible

Shaver Lake Volunteers, a non-profit organization, has taken on the responsibility to maintain the trail system and develop maps that describe and rate the trails.

With the exception of Camp Edison's nature trail, all trails are multi-use. This means they are open to any kind of non-motorized traffic.

Hikers, horses, and bicycles all share the trails, so take care to accommodate your fellow explorers.

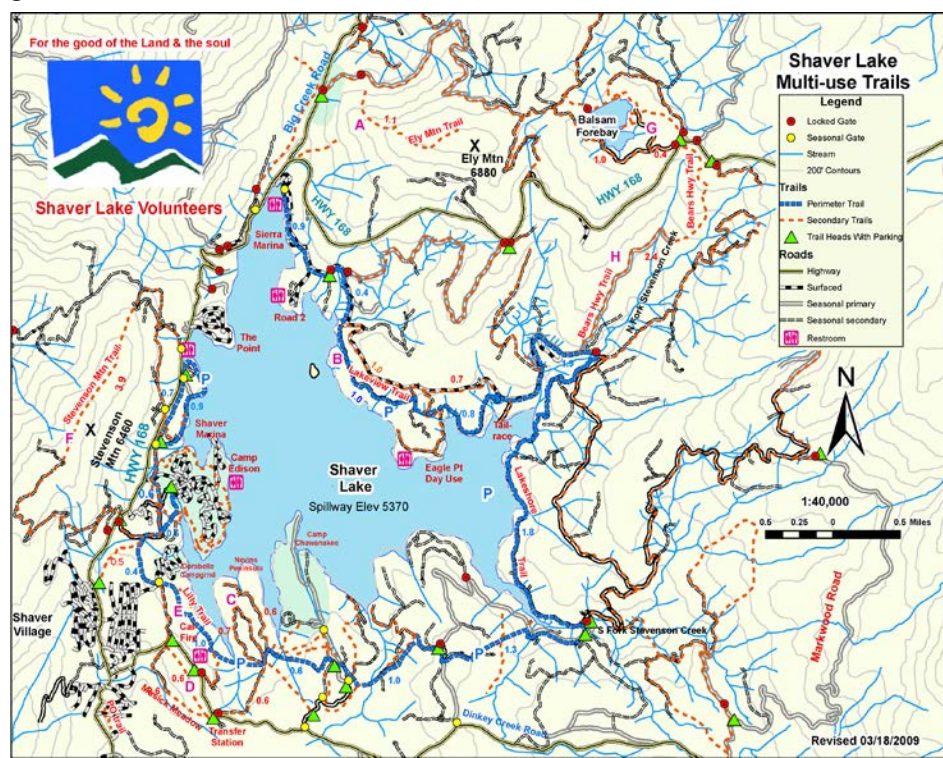
For a unique experience, look out for Shaver Lake Volunteer flyers to catch monthly trail building or guided hikes.

This trail system is possible because everyone pitches in. You can also help by saving your clean, CRV refundable recyclables.

The volunteer group sorts and transfers these recyclables, to the tune of three tons every summer.

Utilizing volunteer effort and ZERO administrative costs, this recycling program funds all of Shaver's trail building and associated interpretive publishing done the Shaver Lake Volunteers each year.

For more information on trails or volunteer opportunities, Visit ShaverLakeVolunteers.com.



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Mother Nature Provides Winds for Huntington Lake Sailing Fun

At Huntington Lake it seems the wind just keeps blowing. Naturally, no sailor worth their salt can resist the desire to hoist the sails.

Huntington Lake can be found at the end of Highway 168, just over 70 miles from downtown Fresno.

Any weekend, late May until Labor Day, you can see sailboats gliding along with the wind to their back. Several racing competitions are held every summer.

Many of the races are run by the Fresno Yacht Club, founded in 1946. It is the driving force behind the annual High Sierra Regatta.

For two weekends in July, it is a sailors' paradise, teeming with sailboats, of all colors and sizes.



World Class Sailing happens annually at Eastern Fresno County's Huntington Lake.

Commodore Daniel Irwin explains, "every day at 10 o'clock the wind comes up, it blows until about 5 o'clock, and by then, it's time for cocktails and dinner anyway."

It is estimated that around 150 sailboats compete each weekend of Fresno Yacht Club racing series which usually occurs the second two weekends of July.

The number of boats each weekend is limited by the Forest Service. So as always, there is a first-come first-serve basis for participants.

"Huntington Lake is the best sailing lake in all of California, and probably one of the best in the United States," said Bob Comstock with the Fresno Yacht Club.



The High Sierra Regatta attracts Olympic gold medalists, and national champions.

He and his wife Monika live in Fresno and spend most of the summer at Huntington.

"Consistent winds, very challenging place to race, so it's very popular for sailboat racing," Bob said.

The High Sierra Regatta attracts Olympic gold medalists, and national champions. The consistent winds and beautiful scenery attract sailors from all over the country.

"If you ask anybody in the western United States who has raced sailboats, and you mention Huntington Lake, there's zero chance they're not going to know what you're talking about," said China Peak Landing owner, Tim Cohee.

Huntington Lake is about 2,000



The Start/Finish line is just west of the launch ramp, which is about 50 feet offshore.

feet higher in elevation than nearby Shaver Lake. Shaver Lake is a popular place to relax away from the Valley heat, but Huntington Lake is generally less crowded.

Huntington Lake is also the premier lake for spectators viewing the races from the shoreline. The Start/Finish line is just West of the launch ramp, about 50 feet offshore.

Mark 1, the downwind jibe mark is about the same distance from the shore at the point which is about a 100 foot walk northwest of the Start/Finish line.

Huntington Lake is nearly five miles long, surrounded by mountains on three sides and contained on its western end by three dams.

On summer days, hot air from the



Weekends, late May until Labor Day, you can see sailboats gliding along the water.

San Joaquin Valley expands and rises up the canyon, forcing cool air that has settled above the lake at night into the mountains above.

This thermal effect produces consistent afternoon westerly winds averaging 15 mph, which is absolutely ideal for sailing.

A public boat launching ramp is located between College and Deer Creek Campgrounds. There is a fee for parking vehicles and trailers at the boat ramp.

Boat launching facilities, mooring, rentals and food services are available at two marinas: the China Peak Landing (chinapeaklanding.com) near the inlet flowing creek, and the Huntington Lake Resort, (HuntingtonLakeResort.com) at the far end of the lake close to the main dam.

Details on the High Sierra Regatta: fresnoyachtclub.org. All photographs are courtesy of Gary Burk, huntingtonlakephotography.com.



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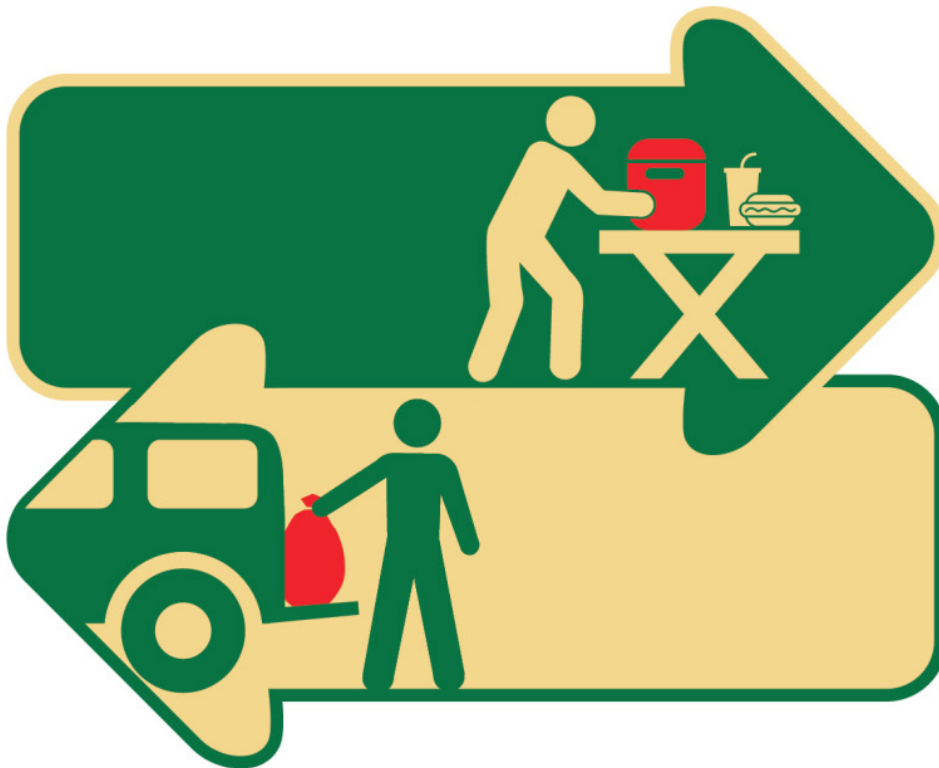
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COOL MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

Summer '25

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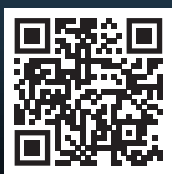
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Central California Adaptive Sports Provides Valuable Opportunities

Since 2014, an Eastern Fresno County organization has encouraged persons with cognitive and/or physical disabilities to enjoy the outdoors.

Not only that, they find funding to make this participation possible. All this is done under the watchful eye of founder, Randy Coffman.

Over 6,000 hours have been spent with participants and their families, including wounded Veterans.



Everyone enjoys catching a few trout, surrounded by the beauty of Shaver Lake.

The staff provides lessons, camping and recreational equipment, as well as all meals. Each activity in the program is designed with adaptations for varying disabilities. Individuals from all ages and backgrounds are welcome to participate.

Family and friends empower participants in their daily lives, and have a positive enduring effect on confidence, health, independence, and overall well-being.

For those spending a weekend, activities include a combination of mountain biking, rock climbing,

kayaking, hiking, fly-fishing, and paddle boarding.

Also included are two days and nights of camping overnight in tents. Programs begin at 6 pm on Friday and end at 1 pm on Sunday.

It takes a team to make the programs work. For each participant, at least one volunteer is needed, in addition to staff instructors.

Volunteers are needed for both summer and winter seasons. No prior experience is necessary. Instructors must be at least 18 years of age. Base Area and Field Assistants must be at least 16.

Detailed agendas, program fees, and additional information are provided at CentralCalAdaptive.org. You can also call (559) 593-2504 or email the staff at info@centralcaladaptive.org. These programs will fill up quickly, so please contact us soon to schedule a program.



Paddling on Shaver Lake is an excellent way to spend the day for water sports fun.



Civic League Website Lists Spring - Summer - Fall Events

The Shaver Lake Civic League is contracted by Fresno County to provide necessary services to the community. These services include managing county owned facilities, providing public safety services like fire protection and emergency response.

A primary offering of the group is the organization's GoShaver.org website. It is very comprehensive. For example, all the regional events are listed for those that might like to take advantage of them.

The Civic League is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit, governed by a Board of Directors. Meetings are held quarterly at the Community Center building. Meetings are open to the public. All interested parties are

welcome to attend.

Here's a little history. The organization was founded as a non-profit corporation in June 1961. The mission was to provide fire protection and ambulance services. Contributions and use fees were gathered from the community.

By 1978, assets included the two-story Community Center, with a commercial kitchen, along with the local firehouse, three fire trucks, one bulldozer, and other equipment.

The county partially funds the Community Center, and fire department. It also provides recreational facilities for the community.

Visit GoShaver.org for details. See ShaverLakeFire.org for Shaver Lake Volunteer Fire information.



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Camping has become one of the most popular spring, summer and fall activities. So join the movement and spend some time in the Sierra Forest. You will return home rested.

Take a Camping Trip This Summer in Nearby Sierra National Forest

Camping may be just what you need this summer. Not only is it one of the most popular recreation activities in the Sierra National Forest, it can be economical as well.

Kids take well to camping. During the experience they can learn many new things about the environment and themselves as well.



Family camping trips can be economical, educational and lots of fun for everyone.

It is not unusual to see three generations of a family enjoying themselves amongst the pine trees. This is a pastime that has been handed down to loved ones for a very long time.

Here in the Central Sierra Nevada, there are several campgrounds available to you.

You can pick your own spot online or get a wilderness permit from the Forest Service and head off into the backcountry.

The best time to camp is from June to October. Prior to and after those dates, there can be winter storm activity that you should avoid.

Camping reservations are available. But many are operated on a first-come, first-served system.

You can typically stay in most campgrounds for 14 days. Most of them fill up quickly during holiday weekends. So when traveling during this time you should come prepared to camp in undeveloped areas.

If you are traveling with an oversized motor home or camp trailer, you will need to find a location that may be more suitable to your needs.

Proper food storage and a clean camp is very important. Never leave food in camp unattended. If bear boxes are available use them to store all food and scented items.

Store all food and related supplies, including ice chests, in the trunk of your vehicle. Food should be sealed in air tight containers.

In vehicles without trunks, all food and related supplies must be stored out of sight. Cover your food completely to hide it from a bear's view.

Clean the inside of your vehicle and remove any open drink containers and food (including wrappers).

Consider removing your child's car seat since they often have food spills and smells associated with them.

Do not leave food or ice chests on your picnic table or in tents. Dispose of all trash properly.

Test Your Kayaking Skills Over Short Thrilling Stretch Along Dinkey Creek

Local white water adventures will be great for 2025. When Mother Nature opens the sky with rivers of water, kayak trips down Dinkey Creek are absolutely exhilarating. Brian Dorr, an experienced river rafting guide says "Dinkey Creek offers the best 6 miles of white water on the planet."



Here comes some excitement as the kayaker shoots towards some fast white water ahead.

Dinkey Creek offers a relatively short run of just six miles long. But it is jam-packed with huge slides and awesome rapids, with very little space between the horizon lines.

Dinkey Creek starts with a bang. After a few short paddle strokes into the run you slide down a huge put in slide.

The largest of these is 'Willie Kern's'. It should be noted the rapids here are named for individuals that had interesting descents down them.

"After Willie Kern's there is a short pool before a perfect 20 foot waterfall," Dorr continued. "The stream then temporarily forgets it's good clean and honest nature as it proceeds to deliver three rapids with undercuts and siphons on them."

"However, once you seal launch back in the joy and fun is restored and you continue to drop and work your way through a network of slides and rapids that are simply incredible.

There are some more portages further down the run we did, however, have a phenomenal afternoon blasting down this Californian classic.

There is far too much whitewater to be able to comment on all it, I will simply say that Dinkey Creek both lived up to and exceeded all of my expectations."



Six thrilling miles of kayak runs down Dinkey Creek among best in the world.

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Tuesday

#6 Two Tacos w/ rice and beans

Wednesday

#7 Two Enchiladas w/ rice and beans

Thursday

#8 Tostada and Taco w/ rice and beans

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Shaver Lake Pizza



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Mountain Tripper for delicious breakfast and lunch selections. Free WiFi. Located next to Bob's Market. (559) 841-7106.

Hungry Hut offers delicious standard and deluxe burgers and sandwiches, fries, plus great milk shakes. Open daily, year 'round. (559) 841-3222.

Inn at China Peak Restaurant Jack's Bar offers food and libations. Step next door and have dinner. Ski-ChinaPeak.com (559) 233-2500.

Lakeshore Resort at Huntington Lake, 2.5 miles past China Peak. Saloon and Grill. Breakfast, lunch and dinner menu. LakeshoreResort.com (559) 893-3193.

Loma Vista Gas Mart offers a Mexican Food, Chester's Fried Chicken, Shaved Ice and Scoops of Ice Cream, cold beer and fountain drinks. (559) 841-5303.

The Trading Post Enjoy a drink at the beautiful bar and then sit down to great food, their top priority. Indoor and outdoor seating is available. (559) 841-5394. Shaver-TradingPost.com

The Grill at Huntington Lake Resort has seating on the deck overlooking the marina at the Lake. Enjoy breakfast, lunch, dinner, ice cream and snacks. Visit them at Huntington-LakeResort.com. (559) 326-6687

Shaver Lake Restaurant at the Point has seating indoors and on the deck overlooking the Shaver Lake. Enjoy lunch and dinner. (559) 841-5329

Shaver Lake Coffee and Deli offers chunky bread, grab and go burritos and a variety of deli lunch items. Several coffee drinks are available. Sit indoors or outdoors. (559) 841-3555.

Vermilion Valley Resort Restaurant is great for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Weekend barbecue is legendary. Visit them at EdisonLake.com.

Shaver Lake Pizza all made with fresh ingredients. Beer is available. Offering great Calzones, salads, hot sandwiches and appetizers. Shaver-LakePizza.com. (559) 841-7249

Short Horn Bar and Grill is locals favorite place to meet, eat,

drink, dance and chat. Has only pool table in town. (559) 841-6464. Visit ShortHornBarandGrill.com.

Shaver Pub 'n Grub has atmosphere, drinks, fish & chips, burgers, pastrami sandwich and more. Full bar. (559) 841-4411. Shaver-LakePubnGrub.com

Pizza Factory - Friant or Prather features "real hand tossed pizza", delicious salads, a variety of pasta, plus hot and cold sandwiches. Cold beer and fountain drinks. Lots of indoor seating. 822-4288 855-2800.

Big Creek General Store on Point Road in Big Creek, features delicious meals and has outdoor seating available, weather permitting. (559) 839-3332

Velescos Mexican Restaurant is in Prather featuring delicious Mexican style meals. Stop by on your way up and down the mountain for breakfast or dinner. (559) 855-6565

Subway is located in Prather. Select from a tempting array of sandwiches or salads. Stop by for a breakfast or lunch treat on your way up to the mountains. (559) 855-7827.

Florence Lake Store has ferry across lake to hiking trail-heads. Get snacks, cold drinks, hot coffee and cocoa. FlorenceLake.me

China Peak Landing at Huntington Lake has delicious food, snacks, your favorite drinks on a lake front setting. Visit ChinaPeakLanding.com. (559) 893-3234.

River Rock Cafe at Mono Hot Springs famous Buffalo and Elk, as well as Burgers, Pasta, Steaks and Fish. Visit MonoHotSprings.com. (559) 325-1710.

Sawmill Restaurant It is open for weekend dining on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Check Facebook for updated menus items and further details. (559) 841-5312

Aroma Tavern and Grill across from the Shaver Lake Village Hotel. Featuring a nice variety of dinner items including New York steak, pan seared salmon, Flank Steak fajitas, Chicken Masala, Spaghetti along with salads, wine and beer. (559) 841-8289



Short Horn Bar and Grill



Shaver Pub 'n Grub



Pizza Factory - Prather



Big Creek General Store and Restaurant



Velescos Mexican Restaurant - Prather



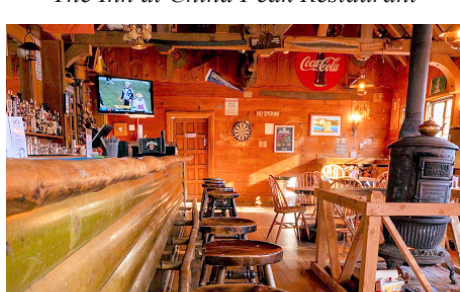
Subway Sandwich Shop - Prather



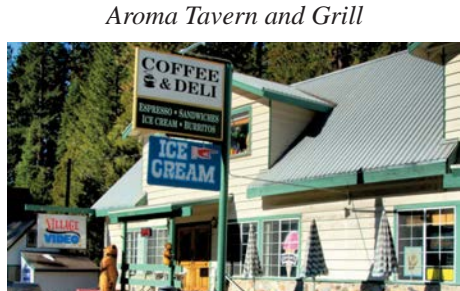
The Restaurant at Vermilion Valley Resort



The Inn at China Peak Restaurant



Aroma Tavern and Grill



Shaver Lake Deli



Loma Vista Food Mart and Fuel



The Trading Post



Shaver Lake Restaurant - At The Point



The Sawmill Restaurant



Mono Hot Springs River Rock Cafe



Aroma Tavern and Grill



The Grill at Huntington Lake Resort

Meal Planning Tips for Family Camping Trips to the Sierra

Spring is here with the newborn leaves, wildflowers and running streams, and summer is just around the corner. It's time to plan a camping trip. The kids can hardly wait. Dad readies his fishing gear. Mom says, "Big deal." How come?

It seems that many families haven't learned how to properly prepare for a summer outing. Next to choosing your destination is the task of planning your meals.

If this isn't done properly, the cook may step out of one well-equipped and convenient kitchen with all its fuss and bother into the wilderness where all conveniences are gone. The fuss and bother are all that's left. It's no wonder she'd rather stay home.

Here are a few handy tips collected from many sources that will help you cut down on the cooking chores.

Keep in mind the limited storage and refrigeration facilities your method of camping offers.

Usually, you can buy fresh meat, vegetables, fruits and ice without traveling too far from your campsite.

Since most people cook over the coals, on a camp stove or in a RV, a few meals which can be prepared on all any of them will be noted.

Breakfast

CORNED BEEF HASH/EGGS

- 6 eggs
- 2 15 oz. cans corned beef hash
- 2 Tbs. Margarine

Melt margarine in heavy fry pan. Mix in corned beef hash. Stir and heat. Spread the mixture in an even layer. Take a spoon and make six depressions in the hash. Break an egg into each depression. Put a little margarine over each egg and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cover the pan and steam slowly until the eggs are set, about 15 minutes. Serves 6.

CARAMELIZED TOAST

- 1 cup powdered sugar
 - 1 Tbs. Cinnamon
 - Water and French bread
- Mix powdered sugar and cinnamon in bowl. Stir in water to form a thin paste. Dip slices of bread in the paste and fry slowly in butter on both sides until crust is golden brown.

Lunch or Dinner

CHILI DOGS

- 8 hot dogs - 8 hot-dog buns
 - 1 15-oz. can chili with beans
 - 1 cup crushed corn chips
- Slit each hot-dog lengthwise and put in bun. Stir chili and chips together. Spoon it in the slit hot dogs. Wrap buns in foil, bake for 20 minutes. Serves 8.

PEPPERONI CHEESE BUNS

- 4 hamburger buns
- 1 5-oz. jar cheese spread



No matter where you travel in the Sierra Nevada for your vacation, planning ahead for meals on your camping trip helps make the trip more pleasurable for the entire family.

- 1 4-oz. package sliced pepperoni
- Spread cut surfaces of buns with cheese and place pepperoni on bottom buns. Wrap in foil, heat until warm. Serves 4.

GRILLED TUNA SANDWICHES

- 8 bread slices
 - 4 slices American cheese
 - 1/4 cup finely chopped celery
 - 1 7-ounce can tuna, drained
 - 1/3 cup mayonnaise - Butter
- Mix tuna, celery and mayonnaise. Spread mixture on half the bread slices. Top each with slice of cheese and another piece of bread. Butter tops and bottoms of sandwiches. Cook on skillet over low heat on both sides until browned. Serves 4.

FISH IN BEER BATTER

- 1 1/4 cups packaged biscuit mix
- 3/4 cup beer - 1 egg - 1/4 tsp. salt

- 4 pan-sized fish - Cooking oil
- Combine the biscuit mix, beer, egg and salt. Dip the fish in batter coating both sides. Fry in hot oil for 4 - 5 minutes on each side. Serves 4.

Snacks

HOBOPOPCORN

- 4 squares heavy foil, 4x4 inches
 - 4 tsp. cooking oil
 - 1/4 cup popcorn string
- Place 1 tsp. oil and 1 tbs. of popcorn in the center of each foil square. Bring foil corners together to make a pouch. Seal edges well, allowing room for popcorn to expand during cooking. Tie each pouch to a long stick with a piece of string. Put the pouch directly on hot coals and shake constantly until the corn is popped. Season with butter and salt. Serves 4.

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If you enjoy off road travel on some challenging terrain that features some fantastic scenic views, then the Sierra National Forest is a region that you will find wonderful.

Off Road Adventures Await You in the Kaiser and Dinkey Wilderness

Off-Highway Vehicle enthusiasts will find many opportunities for off-highway enjoyment in the Sierra. A list of trails is available at ShaverLakeTimes.com/off-road-trails.

Brewer OHV Route: Just above Shaver Lake is the Brewer OHV route, classified as easiest. The route is 3.5 miles long and takes an hour.

Take Hwy 168 east from Shaver to the Tamarack Sno Park Area. Turn east on Road 9S69 and go about 3 miles, turn left on Road 9S69.

Continue on Road 9S69 for 2 miles until you reach Road 9S10 on your right. Follow Road 9S10 for 1.5 miles to you get to a gate.

Bald Mountain: This route is open year-round. Take Dinkey Creek Road east from Shaver Lake

and after 9.5 miles turn left on Rock Creek Road (9S09). Go north on Rd 9S09, 3.5 miles. Staying right at the first two intersections will put you on the more challenging lower loop.

Stay left for the most direct and easier route to the top of Bald Mt. To access from the north take Hwy 168 above Shaver Lake to the Tamarack Snow-Park, travel along Rd 9S09 for 3 miles to the intersection of Rd. 9S02. Take Rd. 9S02 south and you will come to the north trail head in less than 10 minutes. This route is known as the “easy way” to the top of Bald Mountain. Stay right at the first intersection after the trail head. Many high clearance trucks can reach the top going this way. Left will take you to the lower loop.

S'mores Are a Dessert Treat Made Over Evening Campfire

Camping is a wonderful way for family and friends to relax while spending quality time together.

Over the years, one of the more off the wall questions travelers ask of regional store clerks is “where do I get s'mores.”

Careful not to chuckle, most answer this interesting question with, “You don't really get them anywhere. They are special. You have to make them.”

The making of a s'more can be



Try this very popular camping tradition. Anyone can make this delicious treat.

very educational. You can teach the kids some valuable camping skills in addition to a delicious treat.

But, first you need the ingredients to assemble the finished product: a box of graham crackers, a bag of regular sized marshmallows, some Hershey Bars and a long roasting tool.

Part of the excitement in creating s'mores is spending time with fam-

ily and friends cooking them over a cozy campfire.

So first you have to start one. This can be an excellent teaching time. Show the kids how to make a safe campfire in a provided fire ring, or build one for yourself.

Next you show them how to pile different sized sticks and dry pine needles into a tee-pee shape. Then have the kids light the pile under adult supervision.

Once the fire has been established, you toast the marshmallows to a “crispy, gooey state.”

Next you unwrap a chocolate bar and put a marshmallow on top. Now you place that combination in between two graham crackers. Yummy! Repeat as desired.

Nobody agrees on where s'mores originally came from, but seriously, would anybody over eight years-old ever think of squishing together a chocolate bar, a toasted marshmallow, and a pair of graham crackers to make a dessert?

Now that you have learned you can't just purchase a delicious gooey “s'more” at a local grocery store, it is time to step up and build one!

It is a wonderful experience for children of all ages, as well as those watching their enjoyment, as they get to make their own, all of course, under adult supervision.

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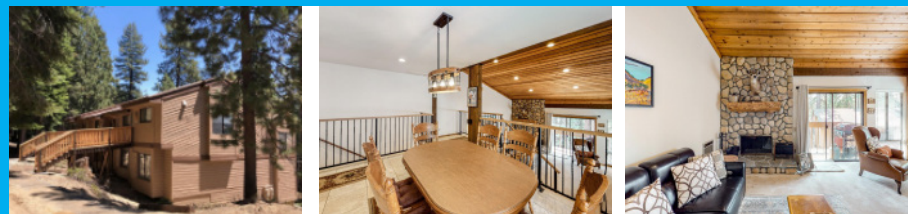


Cabin in Upper Bear Creek Extension. About 3/4 mile to Lakeshore Resort and Marina. Private deck, 2 bdr upstairs and one remodeled bath downstairs with shower. Electrical work upgrades, upgraded kitchen with double porcelain sink, luxury vinyl plank flooring, and new wood stove. This cabin is on USFS land. #627920 • 61347 Old Huntington Rd #41 • \$300,000



Cabin with lots of room (six bedrooms and two and a half baths). Comfortable deck, wonderful sparkling lake views from the deck and cabin and much more! Large rock fireplace. Charming kitchen. Washer/dryer. This cabin is on USFS land. Special use permit annual fee is currently \$5,468. #618891 • 60609 Huckleberry Hill Ln #65 • \$400,000

Condos



2/2 end condo is light, airy, and move in ready. New flooring, interior railings, deck and rock fireplace. China Peak Ski Area is 5 minutes away for summer mountain biking fun! Huntington Lake is a short walk. Stroll to marina for kayak and boat rentals, boat slips, a convenience store, and deck dining. #598158 • 62792 Skiview Ln • \$342,500



2/2 end condo w/easy pool, jacuzzi, sauna, clubhouse, and tennis courts access. Recognizable features include updated carpeting, wood laminate flooring and high-end tile in both bathrooms. Washer/dryer. Large deck for entertaining. The extra natural light in the upper bedroom is because of the extra bedroom side window. #624919 • 62778 Sunny Vista Ln • \$342,500



2/2 condo renovated w/luxurious fireplace with blower, raised granite hearth and a hand carved mantle. Custom flooring, paint, upgraded blinds, and remodeled kitchen counters. Two Trex decks, ideal for relaxing, barbecuing, and stargazing. Built in storage underneath for toys. Washer/dryer, and a hand carved bench out front. #628784 • 62683 Huntington Vista Rd • \$379,000



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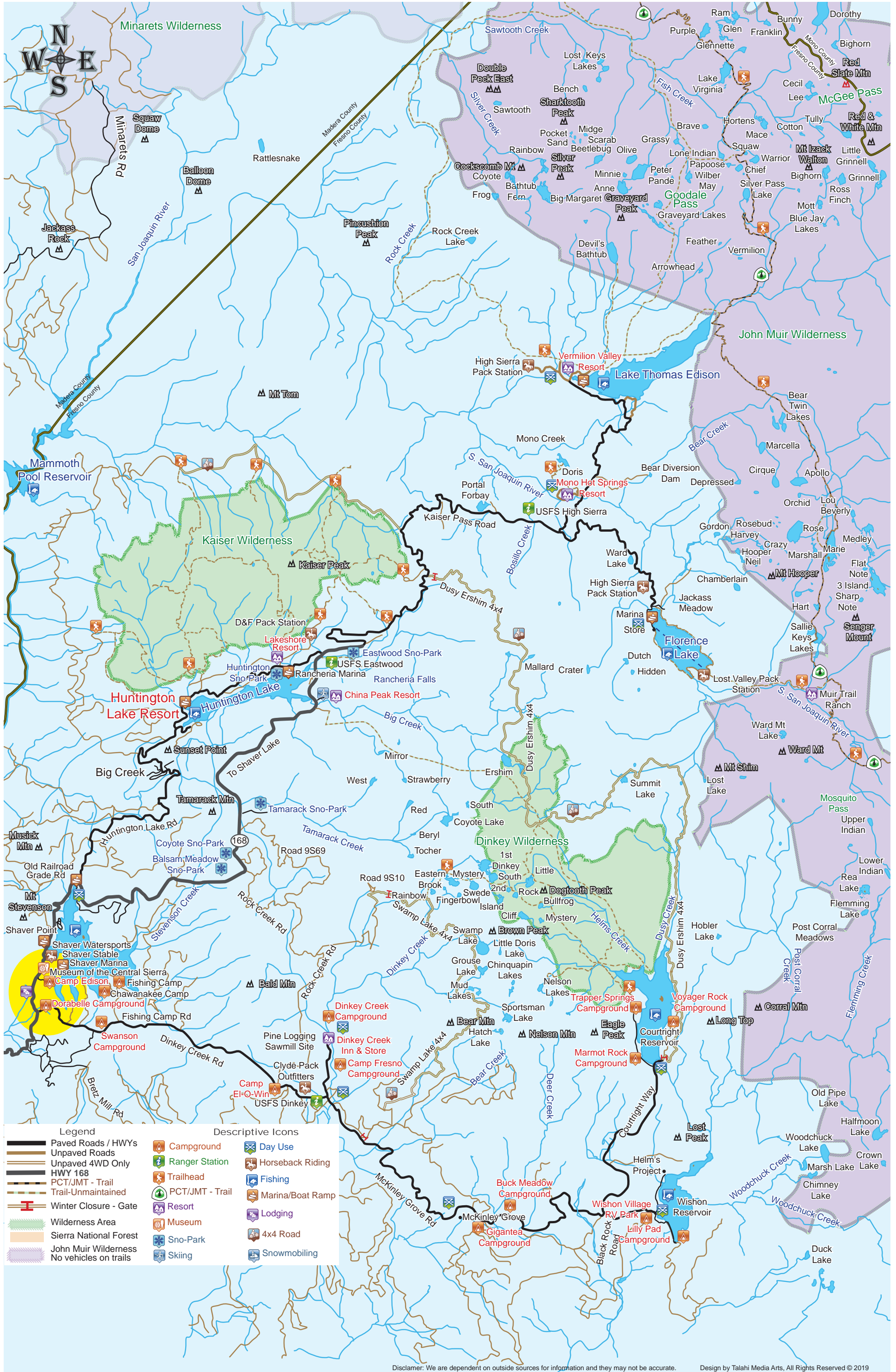
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SHAVER LAKE TIMES



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Enjoy All the Beautiful Sierra National Forest Wild Flowers

For many of us a field of wildflowers is one of the most beautiful experiences we can encounter in Nature.

There is a deep impulse we carry from childhood into adulthood to reach out and pick a flower in a beautiful butterfly-filled meadow or along a public wooded trail lined with spring beauties, irises, or wake-robins.

It is because we all carry such memories that we have devoted an entire article celebrating wildflowers



Butterfly on Milkweed

in the local Sierra National Forest.

Almost all wildflowers are fragile and many wilt and perish soon after being picked. Over the years, the repercussions of wildflower picking by unthinking people go far beyond

the loss of the flowers themselves.

We don't often realize it, but wildflowers support entire ecosystems for pollinators, birds, and small animals on a micro scale.

Butterflies and other insects, small birds, and animals depend on seeds, nectar, and pollen for their food supply and life support system.

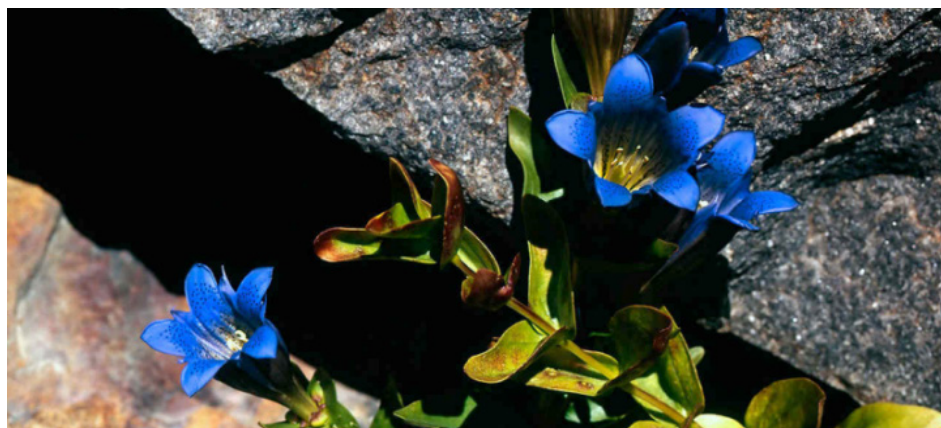
In addition, some pollinators are not very mobile or have very small home ranges or depend on just one species of plant and die once their habitat has been destroyed.

The Forest Service is very enthusiastic about the public's increased interest in native plants found on our national forests and grasslands.

This interest and increased knowledge and awareness of the benefits of landscaping and gardening with



A Phlox



Above is the very beautiful Stemless Gentian

native plants have resulted in nurseries producing native plants for the public to grow.

Landscaping with native plants has benefits including the creation of habitat for different animals; from pollinators to birds, to small mammals.

Many folks are now planting butterfly gardens that benefit these beautiful animals and bring enjoyment and joy to the gardener.

The Forest Service is experiencing increased poaching of wildflowers.

Many people desire species that are not available commercially because these plants are difficult to grow or take too many years to reach maturity; and some people desire the rare bringing those precious jewels ever closer to extinction.

Consequently, some people are illegally removing wildflowers and other native plants from their natural habitats. In some cases entire populations of a species have been stolen.

There are legal ways to collect native plants from national forests and grass-

lands that will allow their use but still sustain them for future generations.

Remember, respect and protect wildflowers and their habitats, leave only footprints, and take only memories and photos so that future generations may enjoy our precious natural heritage.

Story courtesy of U.S. Forest Service



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Consider the Catch and Release Fishing Method

Catch and release fishing is a great way to experience the thrill of fishing without depleting fish stock. Catching and then releasing them back into the water ensures that fish populations remain healthy. It allows other anglers to experience the joy of reeling in that big one.

- Upon releasing a fish, most anglers figure that if it swims away, it's just fine and will survive. Unfortunately, this isn't necessarily true.

- Fish that are hooked in the gills or in the gut have a much lower rate of survival than those hooked in the outer portions of the mouth. If you rupture a gill with a hook, a hemorrhage ensues and the fish bleeds to death. Gut hooked fish survive poorly for a number of reasons.

Many people think they can bring

you do get better survival by cutting the line rather extracting the hook.

Mortality is also affected by exhaustion. A big fish fought on ultra-light tackle can't be forced to the boat until it's totally gassed.

This can stress your catch past the brink. Exhaustion creates extremely high levels of lactic acid – potentially fatal. Also, large fish have a problem with overheated muscles that break down in the course of a



Fried trout is a usually a part of why anglers spend so much time catching them. long fight. An exhausted fish has problems avoiding predators after release.

Fish have a protective outer layer of slime. Handling them with dry hands can remove that slime and leave them prone to infection. Don't net the fish or lift them out of the water. Don't hold them up for mug shots. Keep them submerged, reach over with a hook-out and set them free.

Gills are internal organs. Reaching into the gill plate to hoist a fish is not recommended. It can damage sensitive tissues.

- Pinch the barb on your hook flat so it's easily removed. Start by using the right hook. Circle hooks are the ideal choice.

- Bring the fish to the boat quickly



Catching and releasing a fish can be tricky, but it is a program to practice as it enhances the fish population. This helps guarantee anglers can come back again to catch fish. to avoid extreme exhaustion.

- Keep the fish in the water and resuscitate it. Handle the fish gently with wet hands or moist gloves. If you must net it, use a release net made of soft knotless fabric and keep the fish under water in the net. Don't lift the fish up in the air or squeeze it. I know you want a picture before you let it go, but that photo-op may kill the model.

- If you plan to keep a fish for the table, let the hook-up decide what you kill. If a trophy size fish is

hooked in the lip for an easy release – let it go. If smaller fish is bleeding – keep it.

- Fish responsibly by altering your method or your gear to minimize hooking mortality. That may mean going to circle hooks or setting the hook a little sooner. Put deeply hooked fish in your bag and release the fish with good survivable hook-up. If we are responsible in our approach today, it will mean more fish in the future for everyone.

Story by Angling UnLimited

Catch & Release Only

that deeply hooked fish to the boat, cut the leader, and the hook will rust out right away. There is absolutely no data that would suggest the hook rusts away. If a fish is gut hooked,

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Plan Ahead and Prepare to Leave No Trace Behind

Know the regulations and concerns for the area in which you'll be camping, hiking, backpacking, hunting, boating, riding horses, biking, 4-wheeling or fishing.

Avoid popular areas during heavy use times. Learn to properly store your food to protect it from bears and other animals. Repackage food into re-usable containers like Ziploc bags.

Avoid tin or aluminum cans and glass. Reduce the amount of trash brought into the woods by eliminating all unnecessary packaging. Stay on designated trails while hiking or backpacking. Walk single file in the center of the path. Use existing trails. Don't shortcut switchbacks.

If traveling cross-country hike on surfaces like rock, sand, gravel, pine needles, or dry grasses to prevent vegetation damage and erosion.

Always dispose of waste properly. If it wasn't there when you came then don't leave it there when you leave!

You are responsible for anything you bring in with you. Bring heavy duty trash bags and carry out all your trash. Make your site or travel route look like nobody was ever there. Leave no signs of human influence.

Remove all evidence of your stay. Inspect your campsite for trash or misplaced gear before you leave. Pick up trash that others may have missed or that were dropped by accident.

Bury human waste in cat holes about 6-8" deep 200 feet from any water sources, campsites, or trails. Carry out used toilet paper. Carry out feminine hygiene products. Do

not bury them.

Wash yourself and dishes 200 feet from any water sources and away from campsites. Food scraps will attract insects and animals. Filter your dishwater and carry out your food scraps with the rest of your trash.

Leave What You Find - Take only pictures, leave only the lightest of footprints. Bring home only memories. Resist the temptation to take souvenirs. Leave stones, feathers, artifacts, shells, petrified wood, etc., so others may enjoy them.

Respect Mother Nature - Leave the place you're visiting in a natural condition. You can't improve Nature. Do not alter a site in any way. Good campsites are found, not made. Make sure your fire is completely out before leaving an area. Scatter your leftover cold ashes over a large area away from campsites.

Respect Wildlife - Treat the animals with respect. You are a visitor, traveling and camping in their backyard. Do not feed them! Cook and eat away from your campsite so you don't attract bears.

Camp at least 200 feet from water. Animals come to water to drink and may be scared off.

Be Considerate of Others - Preserve the solitude. Respect other hikers by traveling and camping quietly. Leave your radios at home.

Camp as far from other visitors. Pets are best left at home. If you do bring a pet keep them on a leash and under control at all times. Uphill hikers have the right of way.

Bring Binoculars to Watch for the Beautiful Birds that Roam the Skies

There are many adventures one can have other than fishing, biking, horseback riding or boating.

The Sierra Nevada is one of the premiere bird watching regions in the west. The Eastern Fresno County is the home for over 300 species of these feathered friends. Most are migratory.

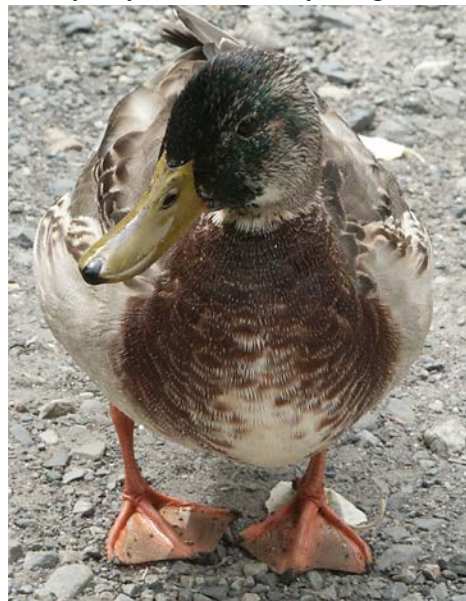
It is only natural that bird watchers come from far and wide to get a glimpse of these birds. The conditions are excellent for the birds.



Woodpeckers

You'll see a variety of hawks, Bald and Golden Eagles, Osprey and other birds of prey. If you are lucky, you may see the Eagles or Osprey swoop down and pull a fish right out of one of the six big lakes found hereabouts.

You can watch the ever mischievous Mountain Jays as they scold nearly anyone and everything!



Young Duck

You may spot some geese, ducks, an occasional owl and believe it or not, even pelicans.

It might be wise to have a bird watching book or manual with you in the wild. If you don't have your own, many of the merchants in the Sierra Nevada carry a variety of bird watching books. See how many you can identify!



Know Before You Go Be prepared! Remember food and water, and clothes to protect you from the cold, heat and rain. Use maps to plan where you are going. Check them along the way. Don't get lost. Bring a pet leash and plastic bags to pick up your pet's waste. Study areas you plan to visit. Read books, check online and talk to people before you go. The more you know, the more fun you will have.



Stick to Trails and Camp Correctly • Stay on designated trails. Avoid stepping on flowers or small trees.. Respect private property. Stay on designated trails. Camp only on existing or designed campsites. Don't dig trenches or build structures in your campsite.



Trash and Dog Poop Put litter in garbage bags. Carry it out. Use bathrooms or outhouses, if not available, bury human waste in a small hole, six - eight inches deep and 200 feet or 70 big steps from water. Put dog poop in plastic bag and place in a garbage can. Keep water clean. Do not put soap, food, or human or pet waste in lakes or streams.



Leave It As You Find It Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you find them. Treat living plants with respect. Carving, hacking or peeling plants may kill them.



Be Careful With Fire Cook with a campstove if possible. Campfires, be sure it is permitted in the area. Use existing fire rings to protect the ground from heat. Keep you fire small. Campfires are not garbage cans. Pack out all trash and food. Before gathering any firewood, check local regulations. Burn all wood to ash and be sure the fire is completely out and cold before you leave.



Keep Wildlife Wild Observe wildlife from a distance. Never approach, feed or follow them. Human food is unhealthy for all wildlife. Feeding them starts bad habits. Protect wildlife and your food by securely storing your meals and trash.



Share Trails and Manage Your Pet Be considerate when passing on the trail. Keep your pets under control to protect visitors and wildlife. Listen to nature. Avoid making loud noises or yelling. You will see more wildlife if you are quiet. To sure the fun you have outdoors does not bother anyone else. Remember, other visitors are there to enjoy the outdoors too.

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Backcountry horsemen take the responsibility in helping to ensure the mountain trails are well maintained while they enjoy the freedom of riding together in the Sierra Nevada.

California Backcountry Horseman Carry on a Tradition Riding in the Mountains

A group of private and commercial packers met in 1981 to form the High Sierra Stock Users Association (HSSUA) with the purpose of representing horsemen in dealings with the administrators of public lands.

Five years later the HSSUA joined with Montana, Idaho and Washington to form an affiliation called the Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA). This national organization's task is to coordinate activities of the various state backcountry organizations. The BCHA now has organizations in 34 states.

The Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) is composed of members who are passionate about keeping public lands open and accessible for ALL – which includes non-equestrians and ALL who love trails. Our organization is volunteer based and functions under the guidance of the BCHC Executive Committee and State Board of Directors.

For those with their own riding stock, the Sierra National Forest provides excellent opportunities for trail riding and overnight camping.

Regional Businesses Look to Add Seasonal Employees to Their Staff

Working in the region can be very rewarding for those that love their time in the mountains.

Nearly every restaurant, lodging facility, marina, market and other service oriented businesses are always seeking new seasonal employees to help service customers.

Typically the age range for staff members starts at 16, with a student work permit. Lots of folks in their 70s are happily employed by regional organizations.

Snowbirds are very popular with employers since they come with their own housing! Yes, housing for seasonal employees or anyone working in the region can be a problem.

Many of the jobs available don't require any special skills. Others do. The most important thing for prospective employers is that you can be depended upon to show up for

Horseback riders will share trails with hikers. Practice trail courtesy, traveling single file to avoid widening trails or damage to vegetation. Do not cut switchbacks. Pack out what you bring in.

Only 25 pack stock are permitted in the wilderness with any group. You must pack in all of the feed for your animals. Supplemental certified weed-free feed such as alfalfa pellets or crimped oats, are recommended.

Pack and saddle stock must NOT be tied within 100 feet of any water, trails, or campsites. Don't tie stock to small trees. Trees must be 18 inches and over.

In wilderness areas several areas on the forest provide camping facilities and corrals for equestrian users.

Overnight stays in the wilderness require a Wilderness Permit. Day use does not require a Wilderness Permit. Please check with the U.S. Forest Service at Prather (559) 855-5355 for any restrictions that may be in place.

your shift. Even seasonal staff members are vital for day to day operations. Each employee is important.

These jobs can be in Big Creek, Dinkey Creek, Huntington Lake, Shaver Lake, and the various backcountry resorts or pack stations.

Your duties may change almost from minute to minute as you are plugged into a variety of jobs that are important to your employer.

Make sure once you have made a commitment for a job, that you stay in that position for the mutually agreed upon time frame.

The benefits of working in the mountains include having the great outdoors surrounding you when you are on your own time.

If you enjoy fishing, hiking, biking, mountain climbing, and hanging out with new friends, this could be a great move for you!

Cowboy Up, Throw Your Leg Over the Saddle and Head Out

Folks of all ages spend the winter thinking about the fun they plan on having when they go horseback riding during the spring and summer months.

Most will spend an hour or maybe two enjoying a ride provided by one of the many stables or pack stations in Eastern Fresno County.

When I was a teenager, my parents arranged for a six day pack trip into the Dinkey Lakes region. So six of us spent a interesting time far off the grid, fishing and hiking.

It was a wonderful experience and I highly suggest it to other families. The alpine lakes, rushing streams,

ment. A custom itinerary is created for you. It covers the menu, livestock, guides and trip objectives.



A wrangler leads a string of pack animals into the backcountry to resupply campers.

Base Camps: Ride to your pre-designated campsite where your tent camp has been moved in by mule prior to your arrival. Stay in one location. All meals are provided. You have your own personal horse for daily rides.

Spot Trips: You ride to your destination. Your provisions are moved by pack animal to your preferred location. The stock and packer return for you on a predetermined date. You provide your own camping gear and food.

Continuous Hire: Packer and livestock stay with your party during your trip. You provide your own camping gear, provisions and meals, including packers.

Additional information available at ShaverLakeTimes.com/pack-trips ShaverLakeTimes.com/horseback-riding



A leisurely ride with friends can be very rewarding. Plan a ride for this summer.

lush meadows, wildlife, granite formations and sounds of the forest were incredible.

But, hey don't take my word for it. Go see for yourself! Packing outfitters typically offer the following:

All Expense Trips. A deluxe service that includes stock, packers, cooks, food and camping equip-

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Take a Drive Through Wild Bill's Windmill Farm in Auberry

As the wind picks up and whistles through the trees in the Fresno County foothills, more than 30 windmills start spinning at the Bucket List Ranch in Auberry.

Windmills were among the three important inventions that made the settling of the old west possible. The others were barbed wire, created by Joseph Glidden in 1874, along with the Henry and Winchester repeating rifles developed in the 1860s.



Wild Bill is very proud of the old caboose that he built on his Bucket List Ranch.

The Bucket List Ranch with its treasure of windmills, antique tractors and western village is on 5 acres off Hwy 168 and Rockhill Lane. It is owned by Bill and Stacey Paloutzian.

"It's a happy place," says Stacey. "We sit in the house, look out and just smile."

The Auberry property is a sight to see. The windmills are all shapes and sizes. They all rise from towers constructed out of wood or metal. Some date to the 1920s. Others that he has

assembled are brand new. Many are adorned with climbing roses.

"I love windmills; I love the way they look," says Bill. "I love antiques in general. Windmills are something from mankind's ancient past."

When he bought the Auberry property over 20 years ago, he wanted to pump underground water to a storage tank. Nobody would sell him an old tank house. So, he built one himself. It is 35-foot tall, constructed out of indigenous sugar pine housing. It houses a 2,360-gallon tank. The windmill on the tank house has an 8' wheel. Fueled by windmills, the tank house provides all the irrigation on the property and other water use.

Bill's windmill interest sparked in 1996. A friend was going to attend a windmill trade show. Bill asked him to return with some steel. When he returned, they put together Bill's first windmill. He was hooked.

He started hitting the trade shows himself, collecting part after part. He always starts with the iron pieces. He cleans them. Then, he has new parts cast, if necessary. For example, he sends samples of wheel clips to a foundry, which makes new ones. He assembles all the power blades and clips. Then, with help, he builds the tower.

His favorite is an 18' railroad



An usual sight to say the least. More than 30 windmills representing several makes and models dot the landscape at the Bucket Hill Ranch in the foothill community of Auberry.

style windmill. Mills like these were used to fill water in the steam locomotives of yesteryear.

His antique 14-foot Aermotor is another favorite. It is larger than the many eight-foot ones found in California. A friend brought this windmill, which needed a lot of work, and gave it to Bill. The windmill would cost about \$6,000 new.

His oldest windmill is a 1920s Eclipse, originally made by Fairbanks/Morse USA. It features wood blades which he painted white with red tips.

Neighbor Hayley Ferguson, who can see his windmills from her backyard says they "add a lot of character" to the community.

Although it was never his intention, Bill has preserved and restored the rich farming and ranching history of America. From his windmills, to John Deere tractors and an old west-
See Detailed Stories at ShaverLakeTimes.com

Many of the articles herein are designed to whet your appetite regarding a variety of topics. They are presented along with interesting images to provide further details for the reader.

So get your smart phone, tablet or laptop to visit ShaverLakeTimes.com.

ern town, "Wild Bill" has built a museum that displays vintage machinery that allowed civilization to expand beyond the confines of the city.

You are welcome to visit the Bucket List Ranch at 32157 Rockhill Lane, Auberry off Lodge Road by the Sierra Lutheran Church.

Regional Cell Phone and Any WiFi Service

The mountains are not real cell phone or wifi friendly. But that can be a really good thing.

Your kids will hate the fact they cannot recharge their phones. So use this time to educate them.

After a family hike, a dip in the lake, a fishing adventure, a horseback ride or another fun event, have them express what they got from the experience.

Take a box of crayons, a few pencils and a large blank pad for the kids. Then have them draw a picture and/or write an explanation of the adventure that they can share with other family members and friends not along on the vacation.

Thus, they have an educational experience with art and writing that end up being a form of story telling.

Who knows. Perhaps a budding graphic artist, journalist or designer will be born!

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This comfortable home in the Granite Ridge Subdivision near Shaver Lake offers modern amenities and plenty of space for a large group or multiple families.

There is a wood-burning fireplace and comfortable leather furniture in the living room, a huge deck with forest views for outdoor dining, soaking up sunshine, and running around.

Kitchen has a gas grill and is fully outfitted for all your cooking needs. Group the kids together in the large bunk room to play games or watch movies.

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Forest Animal Tracks That You Can Identify on a Trip

Animal tracks are a great way to learn about the different creatures in your area. No matter where you live, there are cool creatures to discover!

Have your little ones turn on their thinking caps and get ready to become an expert animal tracker. Learning about animal tracks will encourage your kids' love of nature and sense of adventure!

Finding animal tracks with your family is a great way to spend an afternoon! Read through these helpful tips on finding and identifying the tracks you may see.

Keep yourself, your family and the animals around you safe by keeping these things in mind:

- Never get close to a wild animal even if it looks friendly or tries to approach you.
- Leave it where you found it, don't take things out of nature that belong there.
- Don't leave trash behind, pick up after yourself if you bring snacks along.
- Practice caution. Be wary of dangerous animals while tracking. When searching for animal tracks, it is important to know where to look! Depending on where you live

and the season, it may be tricky to track down footprints left by mystery creatures! Remember to look for these ground types when looking for animal tracks:

• Snow: A thin layer of soft snow is great when looking for tracks made by bigger animals like bears, moose and mountain lions!

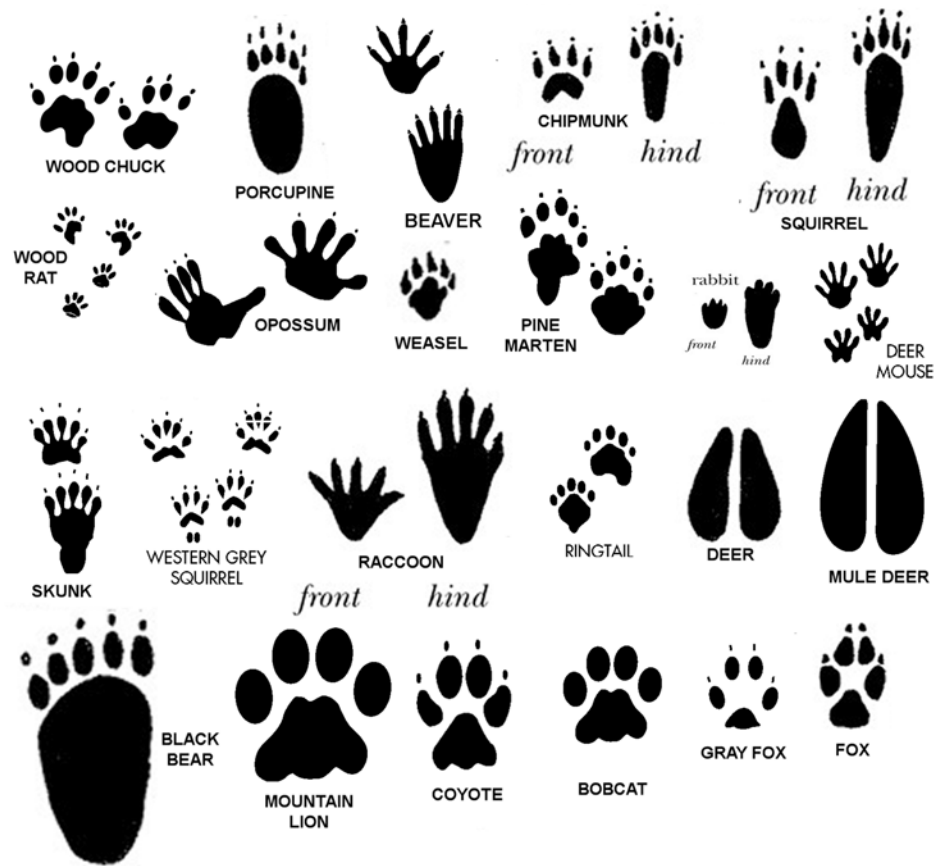
• Mud: Muddy ground is a great place to look for animal tracks like ducks, beavers, turtles and other water-loving beasts!

• Sand: The sandy banks of a river or lake are perfect for spotting the tracks of water birds, animals hoping to get a cool drink of water or a family of bears having an afternoon swim!

• Dirt: Soft, damp soil is ideal for identifying the tracks of animals with paws! If you're lucky, you may discover a raccoon, opossum or even a bobcat that has been by recently!

While looking for tracks, make note of these trail features:

- Claw marks and scratches: Some animals (like cats) may leave claw marks on tree stumps or the ground when roaming their territory.
- Broken twigs and leaves: Big-



ger animals tend to leave a trail of dam-aged plants behind them. Bears, moose and wolves may be responsible for broken vegetation!

• Scat and waste: Droppings are a great way to identify animals in the area! The size, shape and contents of an animal's scat is a clue to its identity!

Every great animal tracker knows that it's important to bring the right out-door gear, and even some toys if you're headed camping!

Don't forget to bring these important things with you on your next animal tracking excursion:

- Animal Tracks Field Guide • Water
- Backpack • Flashlight • Camera

History of Flume That Moved Logs to Clovis

One hundred and seven years ago, the last log flume carried lumber out of the Sierra National Forest at Shaver Lake to the valley below.

California was booming and lumber was needed. The San Joaquin Valley Railroad arrived in Clovis in 1891 and the flume in 1893. Both created new markets for ranchers, farmers and the lumber industry. These flumes made the Central Valley a major lumber producing area, and created mill towns like Clovis.

Read the full story at ShaverLakeTimes.com/flume

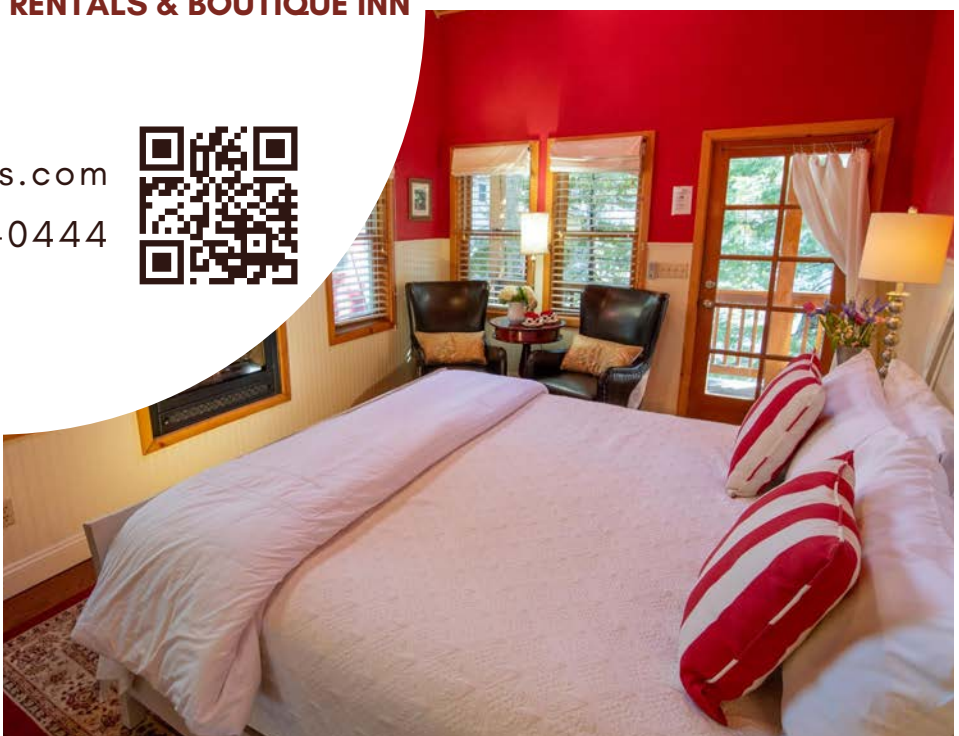
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Smokey Says “Please Don’t Ever Feed the Local Wildlife”

“Don’t feed the wildlife,” means don’t feed the wildlife. Common sense, right?

Rules are put in place for safety or a situation occurred where a rule needed to be created. With the age of social media, cell phones and selfie sticks upon us it is easy to bend or break these rules in order to get the most “epic selfie” ever!



Playful coyote going after a meal

Recently, it seems our insatiable need for likes, re-tweets, loves or whatever you want to call it comes at a high price. Unfortunately, it is at the expense of wild and sometimes endangered animals.

Although rules in park systems are strictly enforced, reviewed and posted there is no stopping some people. Rules are rules and they are there in order to keep the public AND wildlife and other living things safe and protected.

Have you ever wondered why those cute squirrels are so unafraid of you and interested in your food? It is be-

cause these wild animals have been fed on a regular basis by park goers and are used to humans. Just think if the squirrels were bigger, less cute animal like a bear.

It would then become a “nuisance animal” because they have lost their natural fear of humans. Below are some great reasons not to feed wild animals.

1. “People” food isn’t good for animals. Human foods aren’t nutritious enough for animals and may cause serious health problems.

2. It makes wild animals lose their natural fear of people. Feeding can make large, potentially dangerous animals become too comfortable in residential or recreational areas.

Once animals learn they can panhandle for food, they can become a nuisance, or even worse, a safety risk.

3. Feeding wildlife from or near vehicles is dangerous to animals, people, and property. Animals can be hit by moving vehicles or might



Chipmunk playing with his nuts

3. Feeding wildlife from or near vehicles is dangerous to animals, people, and property. Animals can be hit by moving vehicles or might

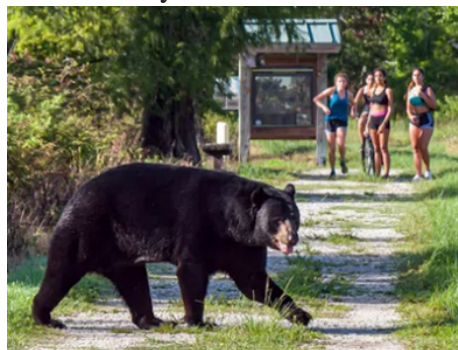
3. Feeding wildlife from or near vehicles is dangerous to animals, people, and property. Animals can be hit by moving vehicles or might



Above you see an example of what should never be done for the health of the animal and individual feeding this deer by offering something from their own mouth. It is unwise! try to enter vehicles in search of food. In Yosemite National Park in, more than 1,100 vehicles were broken into by black bears, causing millions in damages.

4. Wild animals that depend on people for food can cause injuries or spread disease. When wild animals gather for food handouts, it can cause crowding and competition. These unnatural conditions increase the chances of fighting and injury among animals. It can also increase the spread of diseases, some of which may be transmitted to pets and humans.

What can you do?



This bear has quite an audience!

1. Rinse all recyclable glass and plastic containers to remove any food remnants and odors. Some animals, like skunks, can get their heads stuck in containers and wind up starving to death. Cut and/or crush plastic containers, and cut each ring of plastic six-pack carriers.

2. Feed your pets inside.

3. Make sure plastic food wrap is rinsed and put in a tied bag or securely covered garbage can.

4. When visiting parks and similar

settings, clean up after yourself and follow the rules regarding wildlife. Encourage others to do the same.

5. Learn when to step in. If you see an animal who you think may be injured or orphaned, make sure the animal truly needs your help before feeding the animal anything or attempting a “rescue.”

6. Feed backyard birds and squirrels at home, (approved food if you want). We oppose feeding wildlife when it might cause problems, but feeding birds and squirrels is generally harmless. Don’t feed them by hand. Instead, set up a feeder where you can watch them from a distance.

7. Provide some natural food sources. Plant some native bushes, trees, or flowers and put up a birdbath or other water feature for your local wildlife. You’ll be on your way to creating a humane backyard.

So, please remember when you take your family camping trip this summer, or your out enjoying a hike at a National Park, State Park that we are just guests.

These animals that people are trying to ride, “save” or feed are wild and have natural instincts when it comes to hunting, foraging for food and surviving.

Trees and plants do not need to have hearts and bad words on them, flowers do not need to be plucked from the soil. Instead, enjoy the beauty of nature and all it has to offer. Take a moment for yourself and put away that phone and selfie stick and live in the moment.

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Dutch Oven Cooking Is Fun To Try and Master While Camping

Today using a Dutch Oven to cook has a new following. Dutch Oven Cook Offs have become nearly as popular as Chili Cook Offs.

The Dutch Oven was central to outdoor cooking for pioneers, miners, cowboys and others for years.

With a Dutch Oven an inventive cook can roast, bake, simmer, fry, boil and steam their food. They can bake fresh bread, carerols, stews, cobblers, cakes, and pies.

On a recent camping trip, a friend



Dutch Oven cooking is a skill that can easily be learned and it is fun to practice.

of ours decided to use his new Dutch Oven bake some biscuits for his dinner. Here is his explanation.

“My wife was given a Dutch Oven for Christmas and we took it camping with us,” he explained.

“It was decided that we would bake some biscuits to try out this new device. We figured what could possibly go wrong with us trying to bake some biscuits?”

“I took a roll of Trader Joe’s Buttermilk Biscuits and separated them into individual biscuits on the bottom of the Dutch Oven,” he continued as we sat on his backyard deck, drinking a beer.

“I had a good fire going and put the oven in the campfire pit. Then I let them bake for about 10 minutes as suggested on the package,” my friend continued. “You can imagine my surprise when I opened the lid and saw my biscuits literally on fire.”

“Obviously, I needed further instructions on how to do this correctly,” he concluded with a chuckle or two.

He has since spent time learning how to use this cooking system and has successfully baked bread, roasted chicken, made some delicious pulled pork and tasty tri-tip.



The lid is off and the delicious biscuits are ready to be separated and enjoyed!

There are two cooking methods. First you can use it to cook an item or dish and second you can place a



A complete meal can be created in a Dutch Oven. Careful planning will lead to an excellent breakfast or dinner. It is fun to do. Mistakes will be made, but that is part of the fun.

dish on a trivet in the Dutch Oven which will keep the dish from burning the food inside.

You can even put a Dutch Oven on a stove top or into your regular oven at home.

Here are some basics to help you get started. When roasting, coals must be equally distributed on the lid and under the oven. For baking, have more heat on the lid than under the oven.

A three to one ratio is suggested. Boiling and frying require heat from the bottom.

Most of the heat comes from the bottom with a few coals on the lid,

which can be used as a griddle for pancakes or eggs. So read more about how to use a Dutch Oven and give it a try on your next camping trip. It can be fun for the whole family!



Here is the end result after a lot of trial and error. It was fun to bake and tasted great!

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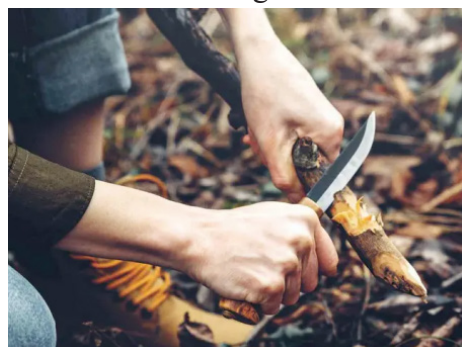
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Packing for Your Spring or Summer Trip into the Sierra

Oh Boy! It is time to take that camping trip. If you have vacationed in the mountains before, you most likely know what to pack.

However, if you are new to such adventures, here are a few tips regarding clothing and footwear.

Having a pack back is a good idea as well. It can accommodate the warmer items along with a water supply, some snacks, water proof matches and flashlight.



A good pocket knife comes in very handy in a variety of situations when you travel.

What you carry in your pockets is important. The most important in there should be a good pocket knife. It can come in very handy in many situations.

Naturally you are going to pack those shorts, a bathing suit, long pants, tank tops, tee shirts and maybe a hoodie.

Those are all great choices for mild summer weather. But you are going into a higher altitude location.

This calls for sudden weather changes that may not be anticipated. Therefore, you will want to pack a warm, heavy coat, warm gloves, thermal underwear and knit cap.

These items will keep you warm when the unexpected storm rolls in during your trip.

Take stock of your footwear as



Flip Flops offer no protect to your feet. Wear hiking boots or a good running shoe.

well. Avoid wearing your flip flops. They seem to be everywhere during vacations, but they are not safe on mountain hikes. They can easily allow you to stumble in rocky terrain. Instead, take a good pair of hiking boots or at least some running shoes.

10 Mountain Traveling Essentials

These ten items should always be with you on a trip to the mountains.

Whether you sprain an ankle or take a wrong turn, you may end up spending an unexpected night in the woods and you'll be so glad to have extra clothes, food and a flashlight.

1. Map - Topographic map of the region in which you will be traveling.
2. Compass - What good is that map without a handy compass.
3. Sunglasses - If you wear a hat, get one that covers the back of your neck. Pack sunscreen, year-around.
4. Extra clothing and rain gear - The weather up on a mountain is unpredictable. Always keep a raincoat with you.



5. Headlamp/flashlight - Always have a good light source in your pack. Have extra batteries as well.
6. First-aid supplies - It is smart to have first-aid supplies with you on vacation.
7. Firestarter - Have matches in a waterproof container or Butane lighter. You may need a fire starter. Bring a candle or purchase a commercial fire starter. Some folks use dryer lint.



Items to take with you for your camping trip should include most of the things that you see here. They will help make your journey much more pleasurable and some comfort too!

8. Water and purification - You cannot dip-and-sip in a stream. Mountain water needs to be purified so it doesn't make you sick from giardia. Always carry extra water and purification tablets or a water filter with you on a mountain vacation.
9. Knife / Multitool - A Swiss Army Knife or one similar can be a life saver. You can slice cheese, clip blister bandages, and help repair gear. Keep it clean and well main-

- tained between uses.
 10. Extra food - You may underestimate how much fuel your body needs while on vacation. Other times, you may spend an unscheduled night somewhere that was not planned. So pack a couple of trail bars, chocolate bars, chips, jerky, bread, peanut butter and other favorite stuff that doesn't require any cooking.
- So venture out, have fun and stay safe. We want you to come back again!



When in the mountains, it is a good idea to share the experience with a companion. Riding through the forest can be relaxing. Always watch your speed and animals along the way.

Great for Exercise and Viewing the Beautiful Mountain Scenery

There's a sense of freedom that comes along with riding a bicycle. From mountain biking to road cycling, each one provides a different aspect to the sport.

Luckily, the Sierra is a mountain biker's dream! It is the home to a variety of cycling adventures.

Here's just a few of the cool biking opportunities available to you in and around Shaver Lake.

Crisp mountain air, easy or aggressive trail rides mixed with the scenic tours make bike riding a great pastime. You can experience miles of mountain biking trails through majestic Sierra in the Kaiser Wilderness and Dinkey Wilderness as well as the Courtright and Wishon Reservoir regions.

The Sierra offers some of the finest single-track riding anywhere, from easy to technical. Detailed maps are available at Shaver Lake Sports and a guide to the region published by Talahi Media Arts is at many businesses.

Nonetheless, there are many opportunities for two-wheel enthusiasts on, or near, the Sierra National Forest.

Paved roads that head into the forest are usually very steep but offer scenic-if challenging- hill climbing. Summers can be hot and dry. It's important to carry extra water.

The Dinkey Creek trail is 11.7 miles long. It begins at Cow Creek Quarry and ends at Deer Creek. The trail is great for Mountain Biking and hikers as well.

The ride from Mono Hot Springs to Edison or Florence Lakes round trip is about 10 miles. The trail to Florence is fairly steep. The one to Edison is less strenuous and very scenic.

You can ride the Kaiser Pass Road to Sample Meadows then the Stump Springs Road down to Big Creek and back to Shaver.

You can cover 56 miles round trip from Shaver Lake to the dam at Wishon. Courtright Reservoir is another nice place to take a bike ride. It is about 11 miles from the Wishon Village Store. It is in beautiful high Sierra terrain that is often referred to as "Tuolumne Meadows without the crowds".



Many forest trails are shared by hikers, horseback riders and mountain bikers.



The 28th Edition of the Loggers Jamboree takes place Aug. 3 from 11 am to 5 pm at Huntington Lake. For tickets visit prsboosters.org/event-details/27th-loggers-jamboree-1.

Explore the Six Scenic Lakes Within Eastern Fresno County

The Western Outdoor News is always broadcasting the joy of fishing in the Eastern Sierra. Well their staff should spend some time in this region where fisherman are offered some of the finest angling action in the western United States.



Shaver Lake is home to the Trophy Trout plants by a group of dedicated fishermen.

No matter if you prefer fishing from a boat, a float tube, kayak or from shore the fish are in these lakes and the river to tempt you from sunrise to sunset.

It would be pretty hard to fish all the wonderful lakes in the area on just one vacation, so here is information about several waterways on which you might like to try your



Huntington Lake is well known for sailing, but you can catch some big trout there too!

hand in the near future.

Shaver and Huntington Lakes are probably the two most well known lakes in Fresno County.

But you're in for a treat when you travel further inland to Edison, Florence, as well as the Wishon and Courtright Reservoirs.

They are accessed from the community of Shaver by taking Dinkey Creek Road to McKinley Grove Road.

You follow McKinley Grove Road through the very scenic area of the McKinley Grove of Giant Sequoias and on to the two reservoirs that are part of the Pacific Gas and Electric Helm's Project.



Wishon Reservoir is on the King's River at off McKinley Grove Rd. Go catch a fish.

Wishon is just beyond Wishon Village about 26 miles from Shaver. You get to Courtright off McKinley Grove Road by turning onto Courtright Way that will take you by PG&E private housing and onto the reservoir which is about 11 miles



The San Joaquin River i near Mono Hot Springs offers some of the best fly fishing this side of the King's River in the Sierra National Forest. Tie a fly and go give it a try!

from the turnoff.

Both reservoirs offer great Rainbow Trout and German Brown fishing. There are boat launching facilities at both locations. Wishon Village RV Park features RV and Tent Camping and a nicely stocked general store. A marina with boat rentals is available as well. Details at WishonVillage.com.



Courtright Reservoir is part of the PG&E Helm's Project where fishing is excellent.

For those ready to try the other direction past Huntington Lake and into the Kaiser Wilderness, you will



Florence Lake is a jumping off spot to the Muir Trail Ranch and some good fishing.

find Portal Forbay (35 miles), Ward (40 miles), Edison and Florence Lakes (each 45 miles) as well as fantastic fly fishing on the San Joaquin River (40 miles) near Mono

Hot Springs.

There are public campgrounds available at these locations. Some are first come, first served and others can be reserved. Check the following for more information: www.recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777.

There are boat rentals and a small store at Florence Lake, plus a ferry service across the lake to popular hiking trails and the Muir Trail Ranch.



Edison Lake offers some excellent Rainbow Trout and German Browns for anglers.

On the shores of Edison Lake you will find Vermilion Valley Resort with lodging, restaurant, boat rentals, ferry service for PCT hikers and a well stocked general store. You can learn more details by visiting Florence-Lake.com or vvr.place.

Fishermen who troll these lakes find them outstanding. Various lures, spinners, lead core line and night crawlers work well in them all. Night crawlers or Power Bait are the best for those shore fishing from shore.

During your visit to the region, each of the lakes has information for you at their store or marina.

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In Depth Guide to Camping With Friendly Canine Friend

It is much more common these days to see hikers and campers moving through the forests with their favorite furry companions.

But, be aware that pets and vacations don't always go hand in hand. However, one of the reasons you got a dog in the first place was to have adventures together, right?

So the most important thing is be honest with yourself about your particular pup or pups. Will they be a good match for the camping world, or should they be left at home?

Why is camping with dogs is so much fun? The reasons to take your dog camping by far outweigh leaving them behind.

Yes, they can restrict your plans somewhat. But the enjoyment we get from them is multiplied when we're out on an adventure together.

- They are a great source of distraction from letting your mind drift back to 'at home' worries.

- They keep your kids entertained so you can snatch precious quiet time here and there.

- So long as they've had their exercise, they're always good for afternoon nap time with you.

- They provide protection for you when camping in wild locations.

- They draw you to other dog owners, making it easy to meet new people.

- They're always keen to help col-

lect wood for the fire.

- You're guaranteed to get morning kisses – whether you like it or not!

- You'll never miss a sunrise – being woken up by pawing at the tent zipper does have its benefits (honestly).

- They'll create moments to remember forever.

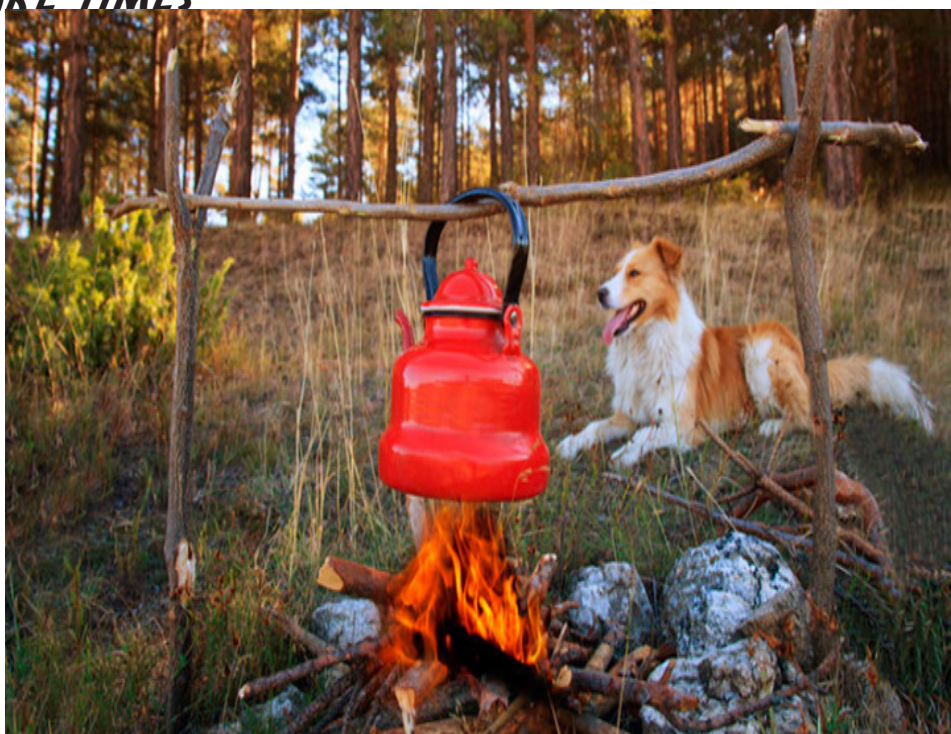
If you've never taken your furry friend camping, it's worth considering if your dog is a 'camping dog' or not. Be honest. Do you have a yapper? No-one wants a barking dog around.

Does your dog tend to be aggressive around other dogs? If fiddo enjoys likes a bit of a scrap now and again, then make sure you keep it leashed **AT ALL TIMES**.

But, that will not stop other dogs approaching your dog to arrange for a sniff or two. Therefore, you might want to consider carrying a muzzle too.

Will your dog come back when you call him? If not, then again, you will need to keep your dog on a leash, both at camp and out and about.

Does your dog hate being on a leash? If this is the case, then wilderness camping, far from others, is the way forward for your and the beast. What will you be doing on your camping trip? If you plan on spending your days sightseeing in towns or visiting tourist attractions, bringing your dog along probably won't work. Be prepared and plan



Taking a vacation with a furry friend is rewarding for both of you. But you need to make sure you dog is trained to mind commands or you are going to be disappointed on the trip.

ahead to choose a campsite that allows dogs. There might be extra costs and certain restrictions. Make sure your animals has an ID on them so it will be easy to identify. Apply a flea and tick preventative to your dog. Camp areas are prime locations to pick up unwanted parasites that are unpleasant for your dog.

Follow the rules of the campsite when camping with dogs. Put a large group of dogs in a field with families, tents, food, smells, fresh air and no rules, and all havoc would break loose.

Here are some good guidelines that apply to camping with a dog:

- Bag the poop and take it with you.

- Don't let your dog adopt another family. They may look like they want

him around, but keep them close.

- Having to shout at your dog constantly is not convenience to you or others. If you have a disobedient dog, then leave him, her or them home.

- Don't ignore your dog if they won't stop barking. You may need to walk off site to quiet them down.

- Acclimate your dog to their new surroundings. Having been cooped up in the car for hours, they'll be dying for a pee and ready to stretch their legs.

So before you set up camp, give them a treat and take them for a walk. A stroll around the site will get them used to all the exciting new smells and sounds.

Story based upon information provided by Cool of the Wild

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Shaver Lake Multi-Use Recreational Trail System

There are thousands of miles of trails to be found in California that offers its citizens a bounty of treasures.

Trails provide countless opportunities to impart a sense of well-being.

Simultaneously they increase our awareness of the surrounding natural and cultural treasures.

These walkways offer an enticing mixture of recreational opportunities in settings that generally remove us from the hustle and bustle of modern living.

Trails and green ways improve the quality of life in both urban and rural areas.

The town of Shaver Lake is proposing to develop a multi-use recreational trail system for all to explore and enjoy.

It will provide a safe path meandering through pine forests on the granite mountains of the Sierra National Forest.

The trail will connect the local mountain community with the small town of Shaver Lake, while going by the Post Office, Camp Edison campgrounds, the Museum of the Central Sierra, Shaver Stables and the blue waters of

Shaver Lake.

The vision and mission of the trail is to establish and maintain a system of trails and green ways that serves the diverse population of Fresno County and California while respecting and protecting the integrity of its equally diverse natural and cultural resources.

The system will be accessible to everyone for improving their physical and mental wellbeing.

The trail will present multiple opportunities for recreation, transportation, and education. Each provides enhanced environmental and societal benefits.

For those of you that are interested in volunteering or sponsoring this important effort, please contact the group at the email address shaverlakecivicleague@gmail.com

Review the conceptual map to the right. It is the current vision of where the trail will go and goal to achieved.

If you wish to support this effort and see this trail come to fruition, please visit GoShaver.org and click the "SUPPORT" button and fill out the form therein.



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Soak in Relaxing Hot Springs Near the San Joaquin River

Lurking under the surface of the Kaiser Wilderness are active geothermal pockets. Naturally warmed waters rise to the surface through granite rock formations. This is a good thing, because they have created several natural hot springs in which you can soak and relax.

They are located near the San Joaquin River, not far from the Mono Hot Springs campground, sitting at an elevation of 6,700 feet with many cliffs in the area. Most of these hot springs were cemented in and made much more comfortable by men working on the early Florence Lake Dam in the 1920s.



Little Eden is one of the larger hot spring pools near the Mono Hot Springs Resort.

You can reach these rustic hot by traveling over 9,100 ft. Kaiser Pass. After nine miles of paved but much of it one lane road, turn onto the well-marked Edison Lake Road dropping down and crossing the San Joaquin with the turn off to the campground just past the bridge.

The following will list the most popular hot springs in the region.

Old Pedro - Cross over to the south side of the river and make your ascent up the hill about forty feet to "Old Pedro" – one of Mono's hottest springs averaging around 106-107 degrees with daily variations.

The two cement lined pools are the remnants of a bath house built by the California Conservation Corps in 1934. It is an in and out pool – you can't continuously stay in it without having to get out and cool down after ten or fifteen minutes.

Reed Pools - Climbing another 100 yards above Old Pedro, you find Reed Pools. They are cooler and refreshing on hot days. Behind the circular cement water tank are remnants of the old bath house.

At times a hot spring outflows from a pipe with a tub beneath it. This is a perfect place to sit and let the hot water pour over your head!

From the hot springs in the vicinity of Old Pedro, you have three alternates for reaching the other hot springs. You can walk about 300 yards east through a muddy meadow with stepping stones on which you can hop on to keep from sinking into the mud to the Iodine Springs.

With a more strenuous hike one can reach "Little Eden", a swimming pool size hot spring perched high on



Many visitors to the region will take a day and drive up toward Huntington Lake and then take the Kaiser Pass Road to Edison Lake Road where they will find several hot springs.

the ridge through the steep meadows. To avoid a steep climb to reach Little Eden, return across the river to your vehicle. Drive back across the bridge. Park at the trail head on the south side.

About 100 yards down the path heading west along the river you will see water crossing the footpath. Look up to your left to water source and you'll see a large granite outcropping with a pool called the Rock Garden beside it.

It is a warmer hot spring, big enough for several folks with beautiful maiden hair ferns tumbling into the pool above the bubbles which is the hottest part of the pool at about 104 degrees.

Mud Baths is 30 yards uphill and over the rocks. It is a cooler pool. The soft clay lining makes for excellent facials!

Another 140 yards down the path from Rock Garden and the Mud Baths are Iodine Springs, cement lined tubs are deep enough to stand in.

The easy way to get to Little Eden, a hot spring big enough to swim in, is to drive up Edison Lake Road one mile and cross a small grated bridge. Park in recessed area just above the bridge.

Walk out onto the rocks below the road overlooking the basin, When you see the resort below, look to your left and discover a beautiful pool perched on the very top of a ridge – the last place you would expect to find standing water!

Rose Garden is nearby. It is another of the cooler pools where you can sit without having to get in and out.



The proximity of the San Joaquin River to the springs allows for a quick "cool off".



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Building a Proper Campfire Takes Skill and Knowledge

Sitting around a warm fire with friends and family is a pleasant way in which to spend an evening while on vacation.

Knowing how to properly build, maintain and douse a campfire is very important. Your safety and the environment around you depend upon how well you tend your fire.

If you are staying in a developed campground, you must build fires only in a designated fire ring, grill or fireplace. These are provided primarily to keep your fire contained.



Many camp sites will have a fire ring in place in which you can build a safe fire.

When camping in an undeveloped site, be sure making a fire is allowed. Additionally, a campfire permit may be required.

Look around the site before starting a fire. Gather some rocks and make a fire ring. If there are pine needles nearby or low-hanging branches, keep your fire small. In dry conditions, fly-away embers could easily ignite a wildfire. Don't make a fire in these conditions.

In backcountry areas where fires are permitted, try to find and use an existing fire ring. When you leave, clean it out. If there is none, build one. When done, dismantle it.



Always make sure your campfire is completely out before you leave the camp site.

An alternative to a fire ring is a mound fire. Use your shovel to build a round, flat platform of dirt. It should be about 6-8 inches high. Use this as the base for your fire. You can easily disperse the mound when you're finished.

Next you need to gather your fuel for the fire. There are three types:

- Tinder includes small twigs, dry leaves, needles or forest duff.
- Kindling consists of small sticks, typically less than one inch around.
- Firewood is any larger piece of wood and is what will keep your fire going long into the night.

It is important to only use local firewood. Grocery and convenience stores as well as places offering sporting goods usually have firewood for sale. Many times a campground host

has bundles of firewood for sale.

Do not bring your own wood. Campgrounds may even ban bringing firewood to avoid introducing troublesome insects into a forest.

When foraging for firewood,



A safe controlled campfire can be made in a fire pit that you find at your camp site.

gather wood laying on the ground. Do not cut live trees or break off branches from standing trees, even dead trees. Birds and wildlife make use of dead branches and snags.

Don't use wood larger than your wrist. Larger chunks of wood rarely burn completely and typically end up as charred, ugly scraps.

Cone, Log Cabin or Pyramid methods to build your fire.

Cone: Make a small cone of kindling loosely piled in the center of the fire ring. You add larger logs a few at a time as needed.

Log Cabin: Put two large pieces of firewood parallel to one another. Leave room between them to form a base. Then place two slightly smaller pieces on top at a 90 degree angle and perpendicular to form a square. Set plenty of tinder in the middle of the square. Continue adding a few more layers of firewood around the perimeter, getting a little bit smaller with each layer. Finish with a layer of kindling and tinder across the top. Leave space between logs so the fire can get plenty of oxygen.

Pyramid: Begin with 3 or 4 large logs set side-by-side as a bottom layer. Turn 90 degrees and add second layer of smaller logs on top. Alternate this pattern with a few more layers, making each one smaller. Put some kindling and tinder on top.

Light the tinder with a match or



Gather firewood that is dead and down on the ground. Do not cut trees or branches.

lighter. Using fire starter that is designed to easily ignite can help the tinder catch the flame. (Be sure to carry waterproof matches and fire starter. Fire-making materials are considered one of the Ten Essentials.)

After lighting the tinder, blow lightly at the base of the fire to pro-



One of the greatest thrills you can experience when camping is sitting around a nice campfire with friends and family, telling stories, playing music or singing together.

vide oxygen, which will help increase the intensity of the flame and further ignite the wood. As the fire burns, move embers to the center to burn them completely. Ideally, you should reduce them to white ash.

Extinguish your fire by pouring water on it, (be careful not to stand where the steam can scald you), stirring the ashes, then applying more water. Repeat as often as needed. Ashes should be cool to the touch before you leave the site. Be utterly certain a fire and its embers are out and cold before you depart.

Note that the practice of using dirt or sand to extinguish a fire is problematic because it can insulate coals, which can become uncovered

later, igniting a wildfire.

Never leave campfire unattended!

Clean up the Campfire

Burn trash items only if they can be fully consumed by fire and turned to ash. Do not attempt to burn plastic, cans or foil. If you do burn something that's not fully consumed, collect the remains when the fire is out and either pack it out or put it in a trash receptacle.

When you're in the backcountry, pack out any trash found in your pit. Extract any charcoal pieces left inside your ring, carry them away from your site, crush the chunks, then scatter the remnants and dust throughout a broad area. Dismantle any structure you might have built.

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