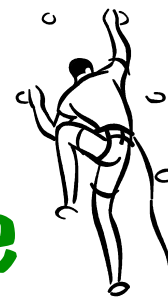




Joshua Tree • Oct. 11-14: Eric C., Kaden B., Ansel P., Dan J., Adrian S., Nick J., Tyler B.

Troop 319

Scouting Gazette



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Event Calendar

Camping & Adventures:

Dec. 7-9: Desert Fun, Anza-Borrego

Dec. 15: Scuba with Santa

Jan. 5: Mt. Laguna 10 mile day hike

Jan. 19-21: Desert backpack trip
(3 days / 16 miles)

Feb. 22-24: Klondike at Emerson
(Trip Confirmation & Details TBA)

March 14-16: Camporee

March 26-29: Kartchner Caverns, AZ

Merit Badges:

Personal Fitness: Sat. mornings
Time TBA

Eagle Projects:

Nov. 11: Mission Trails 8am (Sun.)
— Luke A. project manager

Courts of Honor:

Dec 3: Troop program 6:30pm

Eagle Programs

Dec. 30 (Sun.) - time & location TBA
Anthony M. & Joe H.

Service Projects:

Nov. 11: Mission Trails Eagle Project

Feb. 10: Scout Sunday, 9am
St. Andrews church service

Meetings:

Nov. 15: PCM/ASM meeting 6:30pm

Dec. 10: • 6pm PLC meeting
• 6:45pm Scout gift exch.
& pie toss

Jan. 28: Webelos Cross-Over 6:30pm

Welcome... to the first issue of a newsletter for Troop 319! We hope to make this a regular source of scouting news, complete with trip reviews, event announcements, updates, and fun stuff. This newsletter is created by and for Troop 319 members—adults and scouts. Anyone can help by contributing scouting articles, announcements, photos, original artwork... Suggestions and submissions to the editorial staff can be sent to geofossil@cox.net.

The newsletter will be posted on our troop website, and copies will be distributed at troop meetings. *Enjoy*

Scouts Climb the Walls at SRG & Joshua Tree National Park

The fall middle school break gave seven scouts a perfect opportunity to try their boulder climbing skills at Joshua Tree National Park. Prior to the trip, more than a dozen scouts participated in rock climbing training at Solid Rock Gym, and four earned their climbing merit badge. (Cont. next page)



Riddle Me This

— *Guess what this is* —

If put in a barrel, it makes it lighter. You can see it, but you can't touch it.

Answer will be printed in the next newsletter; submit a riddle of your own for a future issue.

Scout Skill of the Month

Three ways to purify water:

- 1) filter
- 2) add iodine
- 3) boil for 5 minutes

— *Scout Contest* —

Research water purification methods, note effectiveness and cautions, write it up, and submit it to the editor. The best entry will be published.

SRG & Joshua Tree (cont.)

The trip leaders for the Joshua Tree expedition were George P. and George C. Six scouts (pictured top left corner of front page) departed on Thursday, Oct. 11, for a 3-1/2 hour road trip to Indian Cove campground. The group was joined early Saturday morning by a seventh scout, Dan J., and parent reinforcements Bart & Danielle B. (bouldering instructors) and Steve R.

Scouts took full advantage of the boulder field that surrounded the camp. Trip highlights included:

- Climbing and rappelling with ropes and harnesses.
- Scrambling over giant boulders.
- Desert hike to 49 Palms Oasis.
- Great start on the Reptile & Amphibian Study merit badge.
- Amazing scenery & great weather!

Test Your Scout Knowledge

Select the best answer offered for each question, then check the next newsletter edition to see how well you did.

1. What is the #1 desert hazard?
👉 cholla cactus; rattlesnakes; lack of water
2. What is the #1 weather-related desert killer?
👉 lightning; the sun; flash flood
3. What is the #1 killer of hikers outdoors?
👉 heart attack; bees; hypothermia
4. What knot is most used in rescue situations to lift people?
👉 Square knot; bowline; clove hitch

Bouldering 101

Bart & Danielle B.'s Rock Climbing Tips

All of the scouts who participated in the Joshua Tree campout (more importantly, all those who paid attention) learned proper climbing techniques and safety precautions. For those who were unable to join the trip, here is some of what the group learned.



1. “Bart’s Rule”: **Safety 1st, Safety Always**
Danielle’s translation: “Always think safety in everything you do when climbing or getting ready to climb.” This includes **NO** horseplay; no unnecessary risks; plan your route before climbing; check and double-check gear.
2. When climbing a boulder or rock wall, never get stuck in the “X” position: spread-eagle with hands and feet outstretched. If you do, you will likely need to be rescued. Always climb by reaching the hand and foot on one side of your body in tandem.
3. When rappelling, don’t press close to the rock. Instead, lean back in your harness, kick out your legs, lock your knees, sit back, and walk down the rock in control. Also, hold your rope to the side when descending, but hold it behind you in the small of your back if you stop to take in the scenery or to yell at your spotter to pay attention.
4. When belaying, keep your eyes on your climber—don’t watch the rope that you are letting out or taking in.
5. Special rock climbing shoes are highly recommended to help you be as sure-footed as Spiderman while climbing.

6. Learn the “Figure 8” Knot to tie into your harness, the Double Fisherman’s Knot, and the Water Knot for the top anchor.

7. Always treat your climbing rope and harness with great care. Inspect everything for damage before climbing. Keep your rope neatly coiled and untangled. Don’t let anyone step on your gear, as dirt and sand grains will become ground into fiber, which will start the inexorable deterioration of your precious, life-saving, very expensive equipment. Ropes will fray and break at most inconvenient times.

