

The Trail head

A Publication of GLAAC HAT

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From the Editor

Welcome to fall! The Farmer's Almanac predicts that fall will be warmer than normal, with below average rainfall, with warming through October.

The other big news is from the Angeles National Forest. The Bridge Fire Burn area has been reopened to public access, and the Angeles Crest Highway is partially opened again past Islip Saddle to Highway 138.

As of this writing, the federal government is shut down. The Forest Service advises that recreation sites remain open, but services "may be limited or unavailable" during the shutdown.

Upcoming HAT training for the end of this year are:

- Level 1 Climbing Instructor Training October 17-19
- University of Scouting November 1
- Navigation and Orienteering Training November 8
- Level 2 Climbing Instructor Training November 15-16

Additional information on these programs may be found at:

<https://greaterlascouting.org/training/>

Merit badge pamphlets are now available online as downloadable pdfs. They can be found at: <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>

YPT has been revamped for this year and must be completed before adults can re-register. It is now called safeguarding youth and takes about 90 minutes to complete. You can access the new training through your myscouting.org account.

Our next edition will come out at the end of December 2025

Attached is the 2026 HAT Training Calendar.

Suggestions and input are more than welcome. Contact us at trailhead@glaac-hat.org

Hat Team News

The HAT team is dark in July and August (another excellent reason to join) and resumed regular monthly meetings in September.

The safety moment was by Dennis Cline on the proper use of an EpiPen should the need ever arise. There are several videos on YouTube on how to do this, and as an adult leader it's probably something you should be familiar with.

Beth Miles showed the team a FlipFuel, a device that allows the transfer of isobutane (backpacking stove fuel) between cannisters. You can now combine the dozen half empty cannisters you have in your camping box into a few full ones. You can order one here <https://www.flipfuel.co/collections/all>

There were two attendees for the Desert Travel training and 29 attendees at Wilderness First Aid training.

There is little progress being made in forest conservation projects or Eagle Projects in the Angeles National Forest. Getting permission for activities has become extremely problematic. As of this writing, the federal government shutdown has only made the problem worse. Recommendation: if you are seeking conservation work, look for a state, county or city facility to do it. Most parks need some TLC, and state and local government may be more receptive to volunteers.

Note that there is apparently some kind of permitting requirement now if you are using federal and state parks as a group activity. Recently a scouting group was approached at Joshua Tree National Park and also at Mt. San Jacinto State Park near Palm Springs about "having your papers." This is being investigated, and additional information will be provided in the December edition of this newsletter.

The "Little Jimmy Jam" was mentioned. It describes itself as the "San Gabriel Mountains' only backcountry music/art/education and is held in August. The Instagram page is here: <https://www.instagram.com/little.jimmy.jam/> This is NOT an endorsement but is passed along for interested parties.

STEM-Nova News

The HAT Team has been working with the district STEM-NOVA team to combine science and high adventure and additional information on this will be available later this year. In the meantime, upcoming STEM-NOVA events will be held on October 11, at Caltech. Also at Caltech, a HAM radio training seminar, including

the licensing exam, will be held on December 13 and 14. For additional information, please contact Karen Baumgartner at karen@caltech.edu or 213-407-1765.

A Cub Scout STEM day is in the works for next summer at Camp Trask, and additional information will be provided as the event nears.

Forest Reports

Angeles National Forest: Fire conditions are currently extreme, meaning that no campfires, camp stoves, BBQ grills or any open flames are allowed in the forest.

Currently, Blue Ridge Campground, Deer Flat Group Campground, Guffy Campground, Jackson Flat Group Campground, Lightning Point Group Campground, Lupine Campground, Sage Picnic Site, Spring Camp campground and Upper Shake Campgrounds are closed.

The Bridge Fire Area was reopened on June 20. This means it is again possible to hike to the Bridge to Nowhere and to Mt. Baden Powell. Be aware that there has apparently NOT been any trail maintenance or repair work done in the burn area. From reading trail reports from Bridge to Nowhere hikers, there have been a lot of landslides, and the trail is not in good condition. The conditions are not likely to improve over the winter, especially if we have a wet one. If you make this hike, especially with scouts, think long and hard. There are better alternatives right now.

Angeles Crest Highway is closed again at Islip Saddle for emergency repairs as of this writing.

San Bernardino National Forest – Extreme Fire Conditions are in effect between July 1, 2025, to January 17, 2026, so again no campfires, open flames, etc.

Currently Barton Flats Family Campground, Black Mountain Group Campground Bluff Mesa Group Campground, Boulder Group Campground, Clark's Ranch Yellow Post, Coon Creek Cabins and Coon Creek Yellow Post sites are closed, as is Dark Canyon Campground, Deer Group Campground, Heart Bar, Joe Elliot, Juniper Springs, Lobo Springs, Morton Peak Lookout, Oso Group, Ribbonwood, San Gorgonio Family, Skyline Group, South Fork Group, Thomas Hunting Grounds and Wild Horse Equestrian campgrounds are closed.

Cleveland National Forest – No open flames through December 31, 2025.

Blue Jay, Horse Haven Group and Wooded Hills Group Campgrounds are currently closed.

Desert Report

Joshua Tree National Park – Oasis of Mara and 49 Palms trails are closed due to storm and flooding damage. Visitor Centers at 29 Palms, Joshua Tree and Cottonwood Visitor Centers are open. Black Rock Nature Center is closed. The Park has posted a warning that “third party hiking apps” are providing inaccurate trail information and they recommend using the official NPS app, available from wherever your phone finds its apps.

Anzo Borrego State Park - Coyote Canyon Road remains closed 5 miles before the third crossing. A \$10 daily fee is being charged for parking at Borrego Palm Canyon, Horse Camp the Visitor Center, Hellhole Canyon Parking Area, and Sheep Canyon, Mountain Palm Springs and Bow Willow Primitive Camps.

Death Valley National Park – Lots of closures due to flood damage. Emigrant Campground and Restrooms are closed. Badwater Road, North Highway and Bonnie Clare Road (Scotty’s Castle) are closed. Multiple unpaved roads across the park are closed as well. Furnace Creek Visitor Center and Stovepipe Wells Ranger Station are closed as well.

High Sierra Report

Extreme Fire Hazard conditions remain in effect through December 31, 2025, no campfires, open flames, etc. Reds Meadow Road and Campground are closed until further notice. There are apparently some restrictions concerning the area around Inyo Craters, but the information page is currently down.

Points East

Grand Canyon: The Dragon Bravo fire caused enormous damage to the North Rim area. Nearly half of the structures in the North Rim area were destroyed or damaged, including the Grand Canyon Lodge, the visitor center, and the wastewater treatment plant. The South Rim is mostly intact and is open. The South Kebab Trail, Tonto Trail, Bright Angel Trail, Ken Patrick Trail and Cape Royal Trails are open, The North Kaibab trail, Arizona Trail through the park, Bridge Path and Uncle Jim loop trails remain closed.

Somewhere in Nevada: For those seeking a beautiful but remote location for a visit, check out the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge, located near Alamo, NV. This is an important stop for migrating birds along the Pacific Flyway as there is a spring fed pond that creates wetlands. Well off the beaten path, but beautiful. More information here: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/pahrnagat>. And once in Alamo, you can always travel on up the road to Area 51.....



Trail Food

Here are some breakfast ideas that do not include instant oatmeal. Yes! it is possible with a little advance prep:

- Quinoa Porridge – use the flakes, not the quinoa, which takes forever to cook (don't ask) and it produces a rich, nutty flavored meal you can mix with dried fruit.
- Pancakes – bring a Ziplock bag of boxed pancake mix and a small vial of oil or butter. You will need a lightweight frying pan to cook them and add chocolate chips for a tasty breakfast.

- Freeze dried yogurt – really exists. Look in the baby food aisle for Gerber yogurt melts. Grind up the melts with a coffee grinder, put them in a Ziplock, and add water at breakfast time. Adding granola and dried fruit make a complete meal.
- Pop Tarts and baked goods. If you are bringing a muffin or scone, keep it safe by storing it in your cooking pot. Another favorite in this category is Nutter Butter cookies, but be aware of food allergies within your group for this one.
- Dehydrated eggs – the meals are better than the straight eggs. If you go this route, raid your local Del Taco or Taco bell for their sauce packages, or bring Tabasco or your favorite hot sauce.

Go Take a Hike

At adult leader backpack training in February, there was a discussion of urban hikes, defined for our purposes here as being within 20 minutes of a Starbucks. The advantage to the urban hike is that there is no long car trip to get there, it can be done in a day, and there something for everyone to do. In no particular order, here are 4 urban hikes for your consideration:

Redwood Grove at Carbon Canyon Regional Park: The backstory I was told when I visited the grove the first time is that in the early 1970's the now defunct Great Western Savings Bank ran a promotion in which you were given a redwood sapling if you opened an account with them. At the end of the promotion, great minds met, and Great Western gave the remaining saplings to Orange County Parks. Nestled in Carbon Canyon Park is a 3 acre preserve where the now mature saplings are living their best lives. Now around 60-80 feet, it's really cool to see these trees in southern California.



Image Courtesy of OC parks.

Park Website: <https://www.ocparks.com/parks-trails/carbon-canyon-regional-park>

Old Zoo at Griffith Park: When the new Los Angeles Zoo was built, the animals were basically packed up and moved to the new location, leaving the old zoo still intact. Today, you can visit the old zoo. Park at the merry-go-round parking lot. Go through the barriers on the paved fire road, follow the trail to a sign that reads “Old Zoo Picnic Area” and turn right. The trail is wide, flat, and easy to follow. You will eventually hit a series of old structures. This side of the trail is fenced, but keep walking and you will get to the front of the structures, which are open and can be explored. Go back the way you came.

Do take some time to admire the graffiti, which is amazing in places.

Here is the park website: <https://www.laparks.org/griffithpark/#page-top> (look for the reference to Old Zoo picnic area)

Here are some pictures of the zoo currently,

<https://californiathroughmylens.com/old-la-zoo-griffith-park/>

Sycamore Canyon Park, Diamond Bar: This park has a massive play facility for small kids in the front of the park and a nice nature trail behind the play area that goes into the park. The out and back trip is just over a mile, and the trail is in great condition, with benches along the way. At the end of the trail turn right and travel uphill to get some incredible views of the San Gabriel Valley.



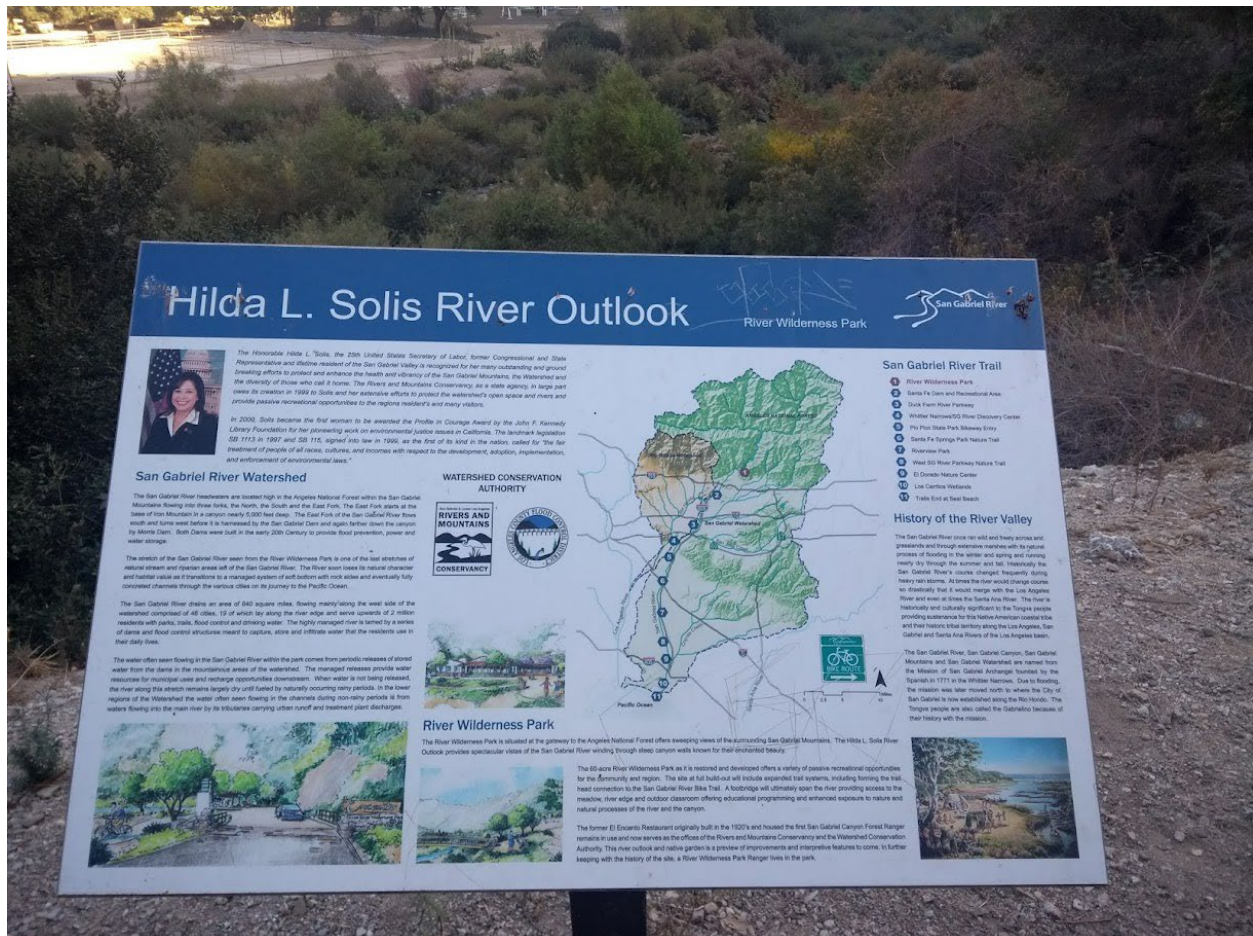
Park website:

<https://www.diamondbarca.gov/facilities/facility/details/Sycamore-Canyon-Park-12>

River Wilderness Park Azusa: If you have ever gone up Azusa Canyon, you have seen the sign for the now closed El Encanto restaurant. That area has now been converted into a park. The parking lot is at the former restaurant site. The trail itself is at the north end of the

parking lot and is a wide, flat trip along the San Gabriel River. You can follow it along for about 1.5 miles to where the trail ends at an artificial sandbar which juts into the river. This is the location of a flow meter to check water flow on the river. When the water is low, you can have lunch or a snack on the bar surrounded by water.

This is currently closed due to river conditions, but check the website to see when it reopens and check this out.



Park website: https://www.wca.ca.gov/azusa_wilderness_park

You Need a Patch for That!



This month again features a patch that anybody reading this newsletter can earn. It's the National Forest Award, and considering that Los Angeles is surrounded by three of them, this is easy enough to do. To earn this award, the requirement are:

- The campsite and half the hiking hours need to be in a national forest.
- You must have backpacked 7 or more hours.
- Camped in a national forest
- Earned at least two training hike patches.

See! So easy even a newsletter editor can do it!

For more information on the HAT awards program, see Hike Aid 6, located here:

<https://glaac-hat.org/HikeAids.html>

All patches can be purchased here: <https://glaac-hat.org/store/>

Useful Links

Campfire Permit: <https://permit.preventwildfiresca.org/>

Campfire permits are valid January 1 to December 31 of each calendar year. For repeat offenders, the training video was last updated this year.

Bob808knight cooking playlist:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKJRQgIAG8Ssq0rdbYStcCzyZMpQDAHQj>

Bob hikes along the Missouri River where fire restrictions are not an issue. When we eventually reach that state here in California, see what you can do with a little extra gear. Be sure to watch the aluminum dog bowl Dutch oven baking.

Angeles National Forest Website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/angeles>

San Bernardino National Forest Website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf>

Cleveland National Forest Website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland>

Glendora Natural History: <http://glendoranaturalhistory.com/>

Dick Swinney of Glendora has spent a lifetime in the mountains, and this page is the go to reference for anything that grows, crawls, walks or exists within the local mountains. What bird did you see? You will find it here.

Dan's Hiking Pages: <https://www.simpsoncity.com/hiking/>

The editor was overjoyed at seeing this site still up and running. Covers any hike worth doing in the local mountains.

SGM – The Waterfalls: <https://tchester.org/sgm/lists/waterfalls.html>

A comprehensive list of waterfalls within the San Gabriels. Getting to some of this is quite difficult and is attempted at your own risk.

Windfinder: https://www.windfinder.com/forecast/los_angeles_california_usa

A website with comprehensive wind information that will help keep you safe from being hit by widow makers or deadfall.

The Hiking Guy: <https://hikingguy.com/>

An amazingly comprehensive guide to hikes in Southern California. Thinking of going? Check this site for tips and tricks. Regularly updated and a true treasure.

Merit Badge pamphlets as PDF documents:

<https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>

Have any ideas on useful websites, pass them along!

2026 HIGH ADVENTURE TEAM CALENDAR

01/05 Snow Shoeing and Cross-Country Skiing Seminar 1st Monday
01/06 HAT Meeting 1st Tuesday
01/10 Cross Country Ski Field Experience 2nd Saturday
01/17 Snow and Ice Travel Field Experience 3rd Saturday
01/24 Snowshoe Field Experience 4th Saturday
02/03 HAT Meeting 1st Tuesday
02/07 & 08 Winter Camping and Travel Field Experience 1st Weekend
02/14 Canoe Training 2nd Saturday
02/27-03/01 Adult Leaders Backpack Training Seminar 4th Weekend
TBA Adult Leaders Backpack Training Field Experience TBA
03/03 HAT Meeting 1st Tuesday
03/07 Scout Leaders Backpack Training Seminar 1st Saturday
TBD Scout Leaders Backpack Training Field Experience TBD
03/20-22 B.S.A. Level II Climbing Instructor Course TBD
03/21-22 Wilderness and Remote First Aid 3rd Saturday and Sunday
04/07 HAT Meeting 1st Tuesday
04/11 CA Trails Day/Trail Boss 2nd Weekend
04/13 Rock Climbing and Rope Use/Rescue Training Seminar 2nd Monday
04/17-19 B.S.A. Level I Climbing Instructor Course TBD
05/02 Trail Boss (Advanced) 1st Saturday
05/05 HAT Meeting 1st Tuesday
05/16 Wilderness Woman Seminar 3rd Saturday
TBD Rock Climbing and Rope Use/Rescue Field Experience TBD
06/02 HAT Meeting 1st Tuesday
06/06 National Trails Day/Trail Boss 1st Saturday
09/01 HAT Meeting 1st Tuesday
09/05 Trail Boss (Advanced) 1st Saturday
09/19 Desert Camping and Travel Training Seminar 3rd **Saturday**
TBD Desert Camping and Travel Field Experience TBD
10/06 HAT Meeting 1st Tuesday
10/16-18 B.S.A. Level I Climbing Instructor Course TBD
10/24-25 Wilderness and Remote First Aid 4th Weekend
10/26 Wilderness Woman (male version) 4th Monday
11/03 HAT Meeting 1st Tuesday
11/07 Winter Camping and Travel Training & Snow and Ice Travel Training Seminar 1st Saturday
11/14 Navigation & Orienteering Training Seminar 2nd Saturday
11/20-21 B.S.A. Level II Climbing Instructor Course TBD
12/01 HAT Meeting 1st Tuesday