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CAMP WOLVERTON - C.B.A.C.  
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**CAMP WOLVERTON - SILVER BEARPAW PROGRAM**

The Silver Bearpaw Trail is a 60 mile loop in the high country of Sequoia and King's Canyon National Parks. The trail begins and ends at Camp Wolverton and is operated as a regular program of the Camp. The Silver Bearpaw patch is worn on the uniform pocket and can only be earned by participants in the camp program. Group size is limited to 15 persons (including Scouts and Leaders). A trained Wolverton Staffman will guide you over the trails and assist in conducting a backcountry Scouting program. An able, qualified adult leader (21 years +) must lead each group.

The entire route of the trip can be traced on the Triple Divide Peak Quadrangle Topographic Map. Landmarks, in order, are as follows: Camp Wolverton, Lodgepole, Clover Creek, Twin Lakes, Silliman Pass, Ranger Lake, Commanche Meadow, Sugarloaf, Ferguson Creek, Scaffold Meadow-Roaring River Ranger Station, Deadman Canyon, Elizabeth Pass, Bearpaw Meadow, Panther Gap, and Camp Wolverton. Many side trips are possible to excellent locations for swimming, fishing, and climbing. A minimum of six days (five nights in the backcountry) is a requirement. More time is suggested for maximum enjoyment.

The registration fee, required of all Units and Scouts, includes five meals and showers at Camp Wolverton, the services of a Staffman, Medical Insurance, the use of all camp facilities, and the patch.

## RULES FOR THE HIKE

1. Camp registration is required of each hiker. A prior complete physical examination must be reported on BSA form 4410 and filed with the Camp Director. A medical recheck will be conducted in camp. The unit leader must be at least 21 years old. A registration fee, charged all hikers, covers the services of a member of the Camp Staff for the trip, meals in camp, medical insurance, hot showers, a campsite, the use of all camp facilities, and the award.
2. Each hiker must prepare for the trip by taking two overnight backpacking trips of not less than five miles each and at least one weekend hiking trip of about 14 miles with full pack. Hike Aid No. 1, available at the Scout Service Center, outlines an ideal program.
3. Each hiker must spend at least 18 hours (afternoon and night) at Camp Wolverton before hitting the trail. This is required for high altitude acclimatization.
4. Submit roster, itinerary, menu, pack list, and actual weight of food and complete packs to the Camp Director.
5. The entire main trail must be covered.
6. A minimum of six days (five nights) must be spent on the trail.
7. Each hiker will carry all of his personal gear.
8. Each unit must pack out ALL of their own trash and leave the trail and campsites unmarked by their passage.
9. Bluet, Gerry, or Coleman LP gas stoves should be used for all cooking to achieve Minimum Impact on the fragile environment.

10. Each unit will turn in a complete trail log.
11. Only one award can be earned for any one trip.

#### THE MAIN ROUTE

	ELEVATION	DISTANCE	TOTAL DISTANCE
Camp Wolverton	7,200	0.0	0.0
Lodgepole	6,700	2.0	2.0
Silliman Creek	7,300	2.0	4.0
Clover Creek	8,400	3.5	7.5
Twin Lakes	9,400	2.0	9.5
Silliman Pass	10,100	1.0	10.5
Ranger Lake	9,200	1.00	11.5
Lost Lake Junction	9,100	2.0	13.5
Seville L. Junction	8,400	1.3	14.8
Commanche Meadow	7,800	2.5	17.3
Sugarloaf Meadow	7,000	2.5	19.8
Ferguson Creek	7,100	3.4	23.2
Roaring River Ranger Station	7,400	3.9	27.1
Ranger Meadow	8,400	4.00	31.1
Big Bird L. Junction	9,200	4.5	35.6
Elizabeth Pass	11,200	4.5	40.1
Lone Pine Creek Br.	7,400	7.0	47.1
Bearpaw Meadow	7,800	2.0	49.1
Panther Gap Junction	7,600	5.5	54.6
Panther Gap	8,400	3.0	57.6
Camp Wolverton	7,200	3.9	61.5

#### CAMPSITE LIST

Possible places to stay along the trail-

Clover Creek -- cook dinner then hike to Twin.  
Twin Lakes  
Ranger Lakes

Lost Lake -- about 3/4 mile off of main trail.  
Commanche Meadow -- in Sugarloaf Valley.  
Sugarloaf Stream Crossing -- about 1 1/2 mile  
before Ferguson Creek.

Ferguson Creek  
First Stream Crossing in Deadman Canyon  
Quiet Village -- second stream crossing.  
Grave Campsite in Deadman Canyon  
Drift Fence Campsite in Deadman Canyon

Big Bird Lake --  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile steep climb from the  
Drift Fence.

Tamarack Lake Trail Junction-- at Lone Pine Creek.

Hamilton Lake Trail Junction-- at Lone Pine Creek.

Bearpaw Meadow -- usually very crowded.

Panther Gap Trail Junction -- about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile up the  
Panther Gap trail from the High Sierra Tr.

Most of the aforementioned sites are somewhat improved, sometimes a table or two, and all have water readily available (depending on seasonal conditions).

The wide choice of where to stay, obviously, offers the group an opportunity to split up their trip in any way they see fit. Some campsites, especially Twin Lakes, those in Deadman Canyon, and Bearpaw Meadow are very popular and occasionally are unavailable. Before a campsite is chosen, the impact should be weighed. The number of hikers in the group, the number of meals to be cooked, the weather, and the condition of the site itself are factors to be considered. There are a sufficient number of campsites on the trail to make this determination of ecological balance most flexible.

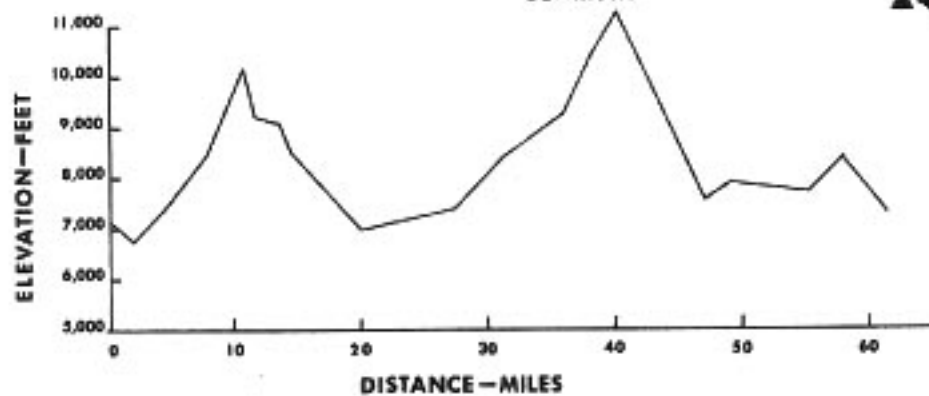
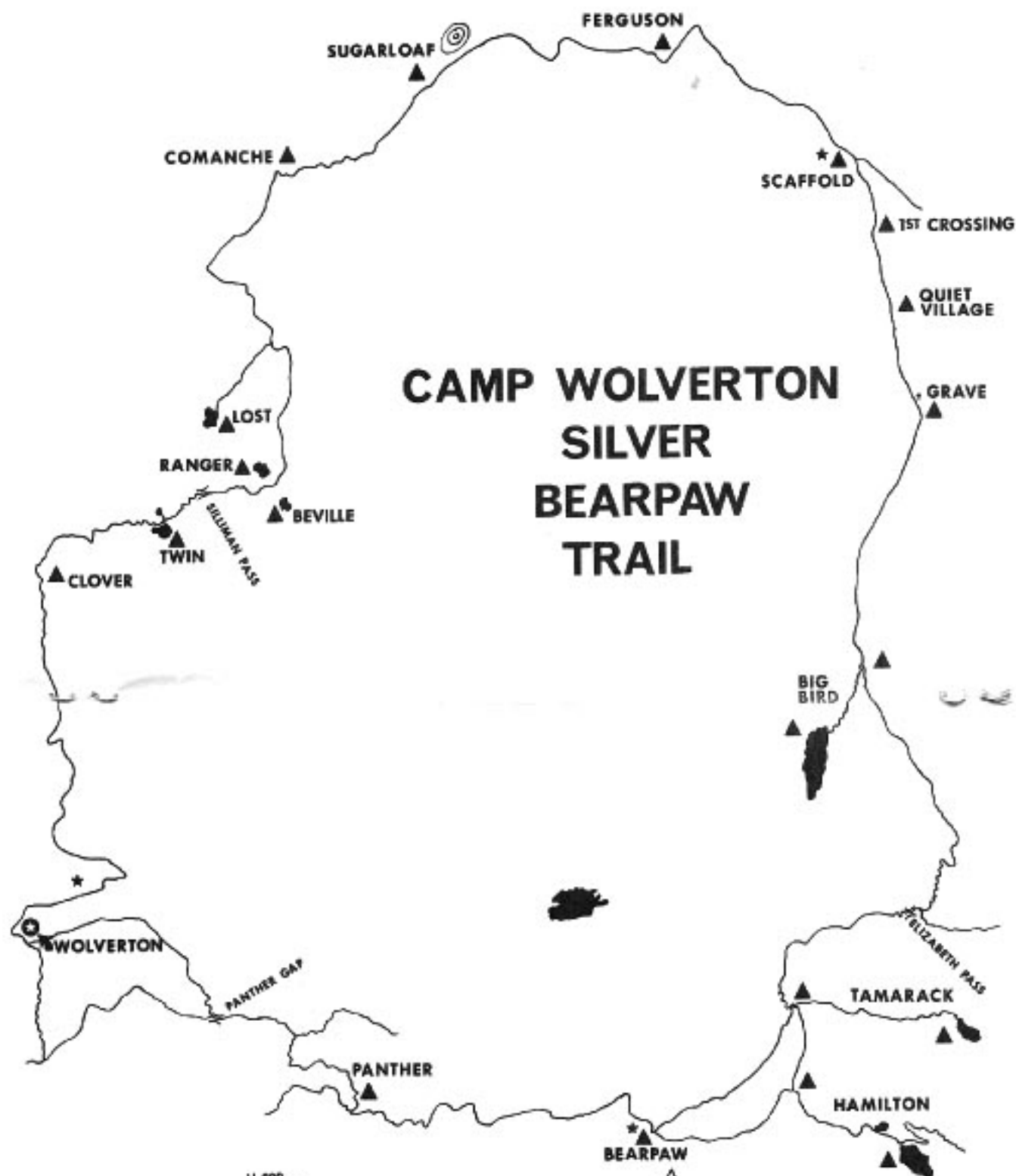
#### SAMPLE SIX DAY MINIMUM ITINERARY (suggestion only)

##### DAY

- 1 Wolverton (7200') to Twin Lakes (9400') 9.5mi.
- 2 Twin Lakes to Ferguson Creek (7100') 13.7miles
- 3 Ferguson Creek to Big Bird Lake Trail Junction (9200') 12.4 miles.
- 4 Lay over day at Big Bird Lake.
- 5 Big Bird Lake Trail Junction to Bearpaw Meadow (7800') 13.5 miles.
- 6 Bearpaw Meadow to Wolverton (via Panther Gap) 11.3 miles.

#### LAYOVERS AND SIDE TRIPS

When a High Sierra trip is planned, the type of country surrounding the main trail should always be taken into account. Side trips, with or without packs, are an excellent way to add variety



to a walk. Nothing feels better than to take off your backpack and walk without it after carrying it for days.

The Silver Bearpaw offers great opportunities for side excursions that will please the mountaineer, the fisherman, or just the sun bather.

Big Bird Lake located approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile off of the main trail is by far the most popular side trip on the entire hike. Because of its immense size, it is truly a worthwhile place to see. The fishing is usually pretty good, since there are usually few people, but the water is quite cold for swimming, although not impossibly so. The short hike to the lake offers spectacular views of the glaciated walls of Deadman Canyon.

Lost Lake located about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile off the main trail is hardly as spectacular as Big Bird, but it is most beautiful in its own way. The lake is similar in setting to Ranger or Twin as it is a relatively small mirror set in a wooded area. Once again the fishing is better than Twin or Ranger because it is a bit off the trail. Camping is very nice since there is usually an improved site available. Swimming is possible because the size of the lake serves to keep the water tolerably warm.

Hamilton Lakes (about 4 miles from the main trail) The main Hamilton lake lies on the High Sierra Trail. Consequently, it is very heavily used. The lake is in a granite setting with the imposing trail up to Kaweah Gap towering over it. Unfortunately, it is sometimes difficult to get a campsite at Hamilton because of the amount of people. The trail up to the lake is slightly difficult but offers a spectacular view of Angels Wing a delicate but massive granite outcropping. Fishing at Hamilton is poor.

Tamarack Lake, located about 4 miles from the main trail, is a beautiful if small lake nestled in a canyon running parallel to Hamilton Lakes. The fishing is usually quite good since it is used less than Hamilton. Tamarack is shallower than most lakes making it quite good for swimming. It also has a small cabin on its banks that is an adequate emergency shelter for a few people if it is not occupied.

#### Other Interesting Side Trips

A hike up Cloud Canyon will offer the backpacker a view of one of the most spectacular canyons in the Sierra. Cloud is at least as pretty as Deadman and well worth the trip. Coppermine pass connects the two canyons at the top at the site of an early mine. The pass is not maintained but is usually passable by experienced hikers. Since the pass is at the top of the canyon, it can be avoided and the canyon enjoyed by all. Cloud is highly recommended for the unit with two or three extra days.

A trip to Tamarack Lake offers the mountaineer a chance to climb Triple Divide Peak and Lion Rock. Triple Divide is also accessible from the top of Deadman Canyon. Hamilton offers Mt. Stewart, Eagle Scout Peak, and, over Kaweah Gap, a beautiful view of the Kaweah Peaks range. These trips are recommended for the more physically adventurous.

#### **EQUIPMENT SUGGESTIONS**

While each hiker has his own method of packing, here are a few suggestions on what to bring -- A good pack, preferably on a good frame that will not fall apart and will ride softly on the back, is a must. There is no reason to have miserably raw shoulders or hips. The pack and frame should be tested on weekend trips and adjusted where needed. Remember, the flatter and higher a pack sits on your back, the less leverage will be pulling at your shoulders. A belly band is a must.

A warm but light sleeping bag is important. Down is preferable, but there is nothing wrong with a Dacron or whatever type bag that has been tested for warmth and packability beforehand. Nighttime temperature, on the trail, usually is in the forties, but may drop below freezing. Be prepared.

A light ground cloth is a must and an "insulite" pad is recommended for sleeping comfort, especially during damp or rainy nights. At least one tube tent for every two hikers is required for emergency storm protection. Don't forget the nylon cord and clothes pins to hold up the ends.

A sweater and perhaps a light nylon jacket are very handy for chilly mornings and evenings and for fending off mosquitoes. Shorts are recommended for hiking. A pair of trousers, sweatpants, or pajamas come in handy during the evenings for use with the sweater.

Two changes of socks are sufficient. They must be tested for fit just like the boots. Socks can be washed and dried very quickly on the trail.

A few pair of underpants and a extra shirt or T-shirt also are desirable.

Most important, you'll need a good pair of hiking shoes or boots. Vibram soles are a good bet but not absolutely necessary. The pain point is that the boots must fit well, be comfortable, and, like the pack, must be tested on weekend hikes. They must be thoroughly broken in. Again, there is no need for misery. You will be walking on rocks.

Don't forget your personal gear, but pack with weight and comfort in mind. You don't need a beach towel, a small hand towel will do. An air mattress is quite heavy, why not get close to the earth for a week. Don't forget a book on the plants, the geology, or the animals of the High Sierra, you may learn something. Use your head and your imagination but remember, you will be carrying everything on your back. You can

be comfortable without carrying 50 pounds, or even 20! It takes some ingenuity, but it can be done. Don't be afraid of wearing dirty clothes or of getting dirty. In time it will all wash or wear off.

#### SOME THOUGHTS FOR THE ADULT LEADER

This trip is one that can be an enjoyable experience for all. In order to make it so, there are a few things to prepare for ahead of time.

Acclimatization is always a problem on such an adventure. It takes from 1 to 3 days, depending on the individual, to become acclimatized. Thus, a day or two must be spent at Camp Wolverton. In any case, you should get an early start the first day and take it easy.

Conditioning does help! Although this hike is recommended for any boy of scouting age, it is not recommended for those with cardiac, respiratory, or weight problems. This does not mean that they have to be athletes but they should be in good physical shape. Running and calisthenics to build up wind and stamina are highly recommended. You will also notice that conditioning and shakedown hikes are mandatory. The better the condition the boys are in before the hike, the more they will enjoy it.

You should familiarize yourself with the current literature on backpacking. Local mountaineering shops and book stores as well as the Scout Office are prime sources. Careful attention should be given to menus. Excellent light weight foods are available at the supermarket which can be supplemented by those companies specializing in dehydrated foods. You should plan to cook all of your meals over LP gas stoves.

Take insect repellent; you will encounter mosquitoes.

Canteens are not needed. There is plenty of water on the entire trail.

Elaborate fishing gear is not necessary. In many areas a drop line will work better than a spinning reel and rod. The fish will bite almost any fly, lure, or bait. California fishing licenses are required.

Sunburn can be a problem especially for the fair skinned. It should definitely be watched for, especially on the backs fo the knees. A light nylon jacket, hat, and neckerchief, provide good protection. Sunburn cream and sun screen should be among your supplies.

#### EMERGENCY HELP

There are two Ranger Stations on the trail. The Rangers at Roaring River and Bearpaw Meadow are able to assist you with most problems you may encounter. They have radio-telephones and can call Camp Wolverton or a helicopter for transportation to the Exeter Memorial Hospital if required.