

Proposed Yosemite to Sequoia Hiking Challenge Patch

Sponsored by
Thunderbird District and
Order of the Arrow

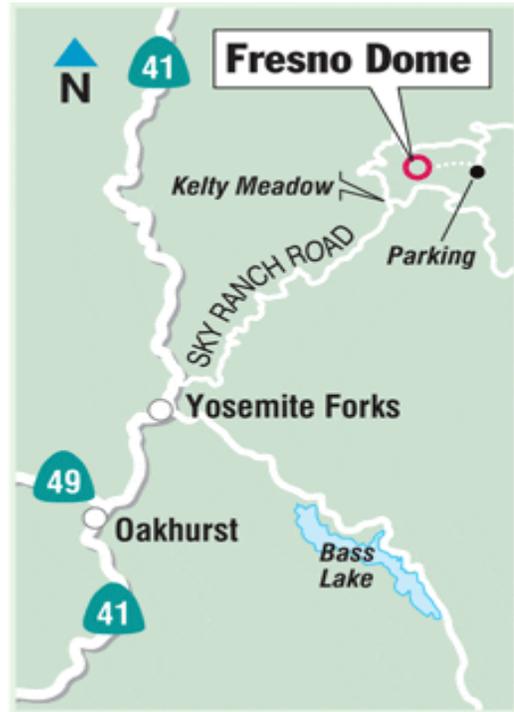


Center would be the core patch and each of the hikes would be separate rockers that would be added as hikes were completed. Individual information sheets for each hike is included. Hikes chosen were non-typical BSA hikes and are in various locations within the council.

Designed could be attained during the life of a Scout - from Cub Scouts to Ventures.

Fresno Dome

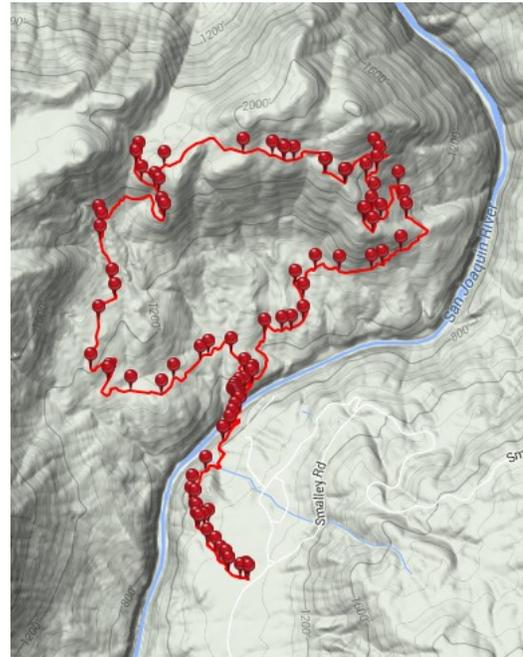
Good Cub Scout Hike
Awesome Views



Fresno Dome Road connects Beasore Road, north of Bass Lake, with California 41 at Fish Camp. Initially, the trail travels along graded road 5S39, known locally as Save the Rock Road, winding through a mature forest and passing its namesake boulder. The trail passes the end of High Sierra #20: Quartz Mountain Trail and continues to wrap around the south face of White Chief Mountain. It passes a short hiking trail that leads to Fresno Dome—a large, granite monolith. Special Attractions: Access to Fresno Dome Hiking Trail; Choice of two developed USFS campgrounds and many backcountry sites; mature forest; Swimming holes and waterfalls along Big Creek. High-clearance vehicles are preferred, but not necessary. This trail is dirt roads, but may have rocks, grades, water crossings, or ruts that make clearance a concern in a normal passenger vehicle. The trail is fairly wide, so that passing is possible at almost any point along the trail. Mud is not a concern under normal weather conditions.

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| Activity Type: | Hiking |
| Nearby City: | Oakhurst |
| Length: | 1.6 total miles |
| Elevation Gain: | 540 feet |
| Trail Type: | Out-and-back |
| Skill Level: | Class 1; easy |
| Season: | Best May through October |
| Trailhead Elevation: | 7,000 feet |
| Top Elevation: | 7,540 feet |
| Local Contacts: | Sierra National Forest |
| Local Maps: | Southern California Atlas and Gazetteer; USGS White Chief Mountain |
| Topo Map: | Fresno Dome Topographic Map |

**San Joaquin River Gorge
Pa'san Ridge Loop Trail
Beautiful Spring/Fall Central CA Hike**



Where: Bureau of Land Management, San Joaquin River Gorge Management Area

Distance: 12 Miles (you can go shorter or farther, your choice!)

Difficulty: Moderate

Elevation Range: 563' – 1,079'

Highlights: Diversity in the type and colors of wildflowers, along with gorgeous reflections in the San Joaquin River. Go in Spring or Late Fall - Summers are very hot.

The site is located approximately five (5) miles northwest of the town of Auberry, California in the scenic San Joaquin River Gorge. The visitor center is located at 40060 Smalley Road, Auberry, California. Google Maps accurately locates the visitor center at it's actual location.

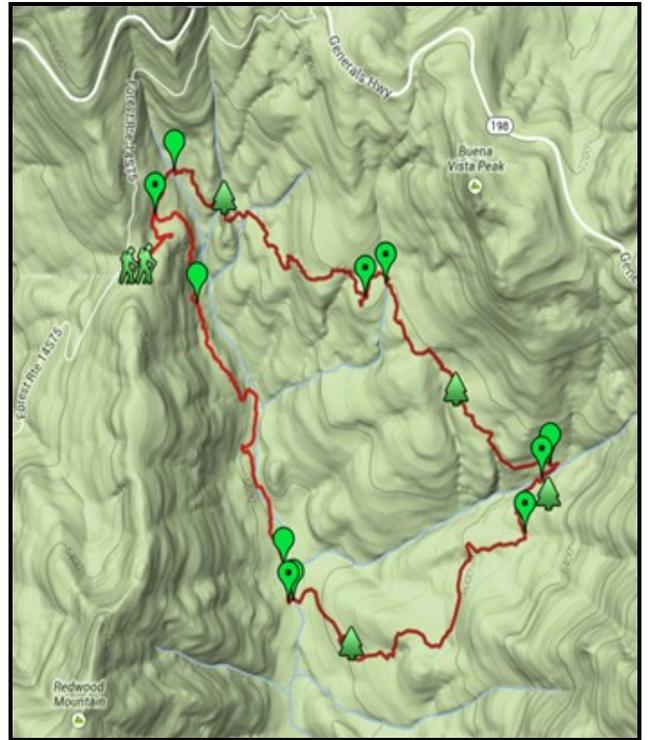
The management area is bounded by Kerckhoff Reservoir and the Sierra National Forest on the eastern boundary. Hikers, bicyclists and horseback riders who use the San Joaquin River Gorge trails have access to several thousand acres of public land.

The 12 mile loop takes hikers past more than a dozen species of wildflowers, including popcorn flower, fiddlenecks, goldfields, baby blue eyes, shooting stars, lupine and owl's clover. A different display awaits around every bend. Less than a mile from the car, the trail crosses the San Joaquin River on a sturdy footbridge.

It's a great spot to peer into the rocky gorge or watch turkey vultures ride thermals in the sky above. The loop begins just past the bridge and can be walked in either direction, both of which involve some climbing. Either way, it's a kaleidoscope of color.

Hart Tree & Fallen Goliath Loop

This 8.3 mile loop contains a highlight reel of giant sequoias.



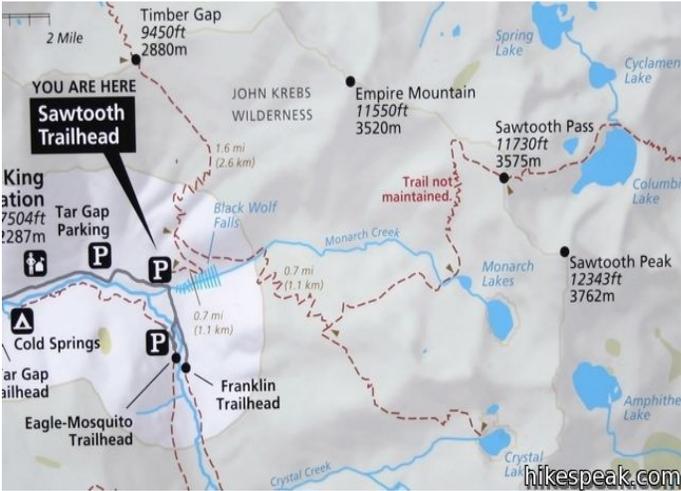
You will pass the Log Cabin, which was built out of one giant log, the Fallen Tunnel Tree, which you can walk through, the Hart Tree, which is one of the world's largest, and the Fallen Goliath, which is big enough to be a school bus wrapped in bark. The trail also passes several tranquil streams, including one with a short waterfall. In all, the crowd-free hike will immerse you in an immense sequoia grove like nowhere else in **Kings Canyon National Park**.

The hike begins from the end of a dirt road at Redwood Saddle, at the north end of Redwood Mountain at an elevation of 6,225 feet. The total difference between the high and low points of the loop is 925 feet, but the profile of the trail is not a straight up and back. The trail starts by descending to 6,000 feet and then climbs to a high point at 6,425 feet, only to descend to the loop's lowest point at 5,500 feet, before climbing back to the start. While there is over a thousand feet of climbing along this loop, the trail is entirely gradual, except for two short steep spots. Please note that park map lists the distance of the Hart Tree and Fallen Goliath Loop as 7.3 miles. Combine with Redwood Creek trail to get 8.3 miles of hiking.

To get to the trailhead: From Fresno, drive east on Route 180. After some 50 miles, you will reach the Big Stump Entrance Station for Kings Canyon National Park. Proceed 1.7 miles to a three-way intersection. Grant Village is 1.4 miles to the north, but turn right on Route 198, which heads south toward Sequoia National Park. Drive 3.6 miles and turn right down Redwood Saddle Road (Forest Route 14S75), located just across from the paved Ten Mile Road to Quail Flat and Hume Lake. There will be a sign for Redwood Canyon at the top of the dirt road down to Redwood Saddle. Proceed 1.7 miles down the narrow dirt road to a split, turn left and drive 0.2 miles to the trailhead parking area at the end of the road.

Trailhead address: Redwood Saddle Road (Forest Route 14S75), Kings Canyon National Park, CA 93628
Trailhead coordinates: 36.707444, -118.92093 (36° 42' 26.79"N 118° 55' 15.34"W)

Crystal Lake
THE CHALLENGE
Length 10 mi · Climbing 1200 ft in 1.3 miles
Kings Canyon National Park



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| Beginning Elevation: | 7,800 Feet (2431.4 Meters) Sawtooth Trailhead |
| Difficulty: | More Difficult |
| Elevation Gain, One-way: | 3,000 Feet (935.2 Meters) |
| Ending Elevation: | 10,800 Feet (3366.6 Meters) upper Crystal Lake |
| Length: | 10 miles round trip |
| Other Maps: | Trails Illustrated 205 Sequoia Kings Canyon NP |
| Recommended Season: | Early Fall |
| Usage: | Light |
| Vehicle Accessibility: | Passenger Vehicle |

The trail to Crystal Lakes begins at the end of Mineral King Road at Sawtooth Trailhead. The route follows the Monarch Lake Trail as it winds and climbs through the Monarch Creek drainage. It begins with a steep climb leading northeast up the valley wall. At a quarter mile the trail forks. Take the right side of the fork to reach Crystal Lake. The left side leads to Timber Gap.

The trail continues climbing and turns slightly southward to cross Monarch Creek. It dips slightly to cross the creek then ascends again reaching 9,000 feet. At this point it levels for a short distance making a sharp turn to the south and leading through an alpine meadow. Turning eastward again the trail begins to switchback to 10,000 feet.

At 10,000 feet the Crystal Lake Trail diverges from the Monarch Lakes Trail. The trail breaks leading southward and climbing into Chihuahua Bowl, passing the remnants of the old Chihuahua Mine near the south rim.

This last one and a half miles to Crystal Lakes is steep and rugged. Despite the difficult terrain hikers will enjoy panoramic views of the southern part of the Mineral King Valley, including White Chief Peak and Farewell Gap. The trail reaches 10,000 feet then descends slightly and levels for a short distance. Then it begins the final ascent to Crystal Lakes.

The switchbacks to the lake last for a half mile. Once at the top of them you'll see the dam that enlarged the lake. There is no maintained trail beyond Crystal Lake. It is best to carry water, as the purity of the lakes and streams along the trails cannot be guaranteed. Normally Open: June through October (NOTE: Due to high elevations this trail may be snow covered during Early Summer and Fall months)

Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park, 47050 Generals Highway , Three Rivers, CA, 93271-9651, Phone: 559-565-3341, Fax: 559-565-3730, TTY: 559-565-3196