



2019 Back-Packing Routes & Itineraries

Trip Dates and Grade Levels:

- Sept 9 to 12 (9th & 12th Grades)
- Sept 23 to 26 (10th & 11th Grades)

***Night 1:** Sept 9 and Sept 23

***Night 2:** Sept 10 and Sept 24

***Night 3:** Sept 11 and Sept 25

Route Numbers and Descriptions

1. High Fitness route

- a. *Description:* Group enters wilderness at Sheep Corral trailhead and comes out at Alum Camp trailhead. *Approximate distance: 20 miles*

*If extreme rain is forecast, this group goes in at Sheep Corral & goes out at Sapillo, with possibility of exploratory orienteering from a base-camp on the overland portion of #247.

**If unexpected extreme rain hits en route, group will go overland from Murtock's hole area to Copperas peak area.

- i. *Trail sequence:* #231 to #724 (north, upstream) to 788
- ii. *Approximate Itinerary & Campsites:*
 - i. Night 1: Convergence of #247 and #724
 - ii. Night 2: Murtock's Hole on #724
 - iii. Night 3: Convergence of #403 and #724

2. High Fitness route

-Description: Group enters wilderness at TJ's Corral, proceeds to the Meadows, and comes out of the wilderness at the Gila Cliff Dwellings.

Approximate distance: 17 to 24 miles. Exact distance TBD by trip leader based on group composition & motivation.

- If Extreme Rain is forecast, this route stays the same because there are no significant & necessary river crossings.

i. *Trail Sequence (if dry weather):* Trail #151 to Trail #28 to Trail #157 to Trail #729 / *If wet weather, go from Meadows to Little Bear overland*

ii. *Approximate Itinerary & Campsites:*

*Night 1: Either near the intersection of Trail #729 and Trail #164 (close to water in Little Bear canyon) or -- if there has been plenty of rain & water is widely available in tributary canyons -- along Trail #164 approximately half-way between the intersections of Trail #164 with Trail#729 and Trail#164 with Trail #28

*Night 2: Intersection of Trail #157 & Trail #28

*Night 3: Intersection of Trail #28 and Trail #151.

-The group leader will decide the exact campsites from this list of options & inform the trip coordinator.

3. Mid Fitness route:

-Description: Three-night campsite two-ish miles downstream on Sapillo creek from where #247 begins to go overland from Sapillo Creek to the Gila river, with day hikes from that basecamp.

i. Trail 247 (And downstream on Sapillo Creek)

ii. *Approximate Itinerary & Campsites:*

*Night 1: Two-ish miles downstream on Sapillo creek from where #247 begins to go overland from Sapillo Creek to the Gila river

*Night 2: same as night #1

*Night 3: Same as night #1

4. Mid-Fitness Route:

-Description: Group enters wilderness at TJ's corral trailhead and goes (a) out at The Visitor Center if low water levels and no chance of rain, OR (b) out and back, with a day hike to Jordan warm spring. *Approximate distance: 8 to 11 miles*

i. Trail 729 to 157 (downstream)

ii. *Approximate Itinerary & Campsites:*

*Night 1: convergence of Trail #729 with Trail #157

*Night 2: same as night #1

*Night 3: convergence of Trails #157 & #27, if option (a) was chosen & approved by trip coordinator (see 'description').

5. Mid-Fitness Route:

-Description: Group enters wilderness at the Gila Cliff Dwellings and goes out at the Gila Cliff Dwellings, with optional day hikes toward Little Creek on EE Canyon trail or toward the Meadows on trail #28. The group leader will decide & inform the trip coordinator.

-Approximate distance: 7 to 9 miles

i. *Trail Sequence:* Out & back on trail 151 on the West Fork, in and out at trailhead near the Gila Cliff Dwellings

ii. *Approximate Itinerary & Campsites:*

*Nights 1, 2 & 3: basecamp at mouth of EE canyon (approx)

6. Mid-Fitness Route:

-Description: Group enters wilderness at Grapevine trailhead, and proceeds downriver from Grapevine if no chance of rain, with an out at Alum Canyon if needed.

- *Approximate distance: 7 to 10 miles*

- If Extreme Rain is forecast, this route starts at the forest service corral trailhead near the visitor's center and does an out & back to Trail #27, Trail #804, and viewing the middle fork of the Gila River without ever crossing the river.

i. *Trail Sequence:* Trail #724 downstream, and out at Trail #788 (Alum Trail) -- with the option to explore on Trail #724 downstream on the Gila river if there is no heavy rain in the forecast.

ii. *Approximate Itinerary & Campsites:*

*Night 1: convergence of Rincon canyon and #724

*Night 2: same as night 1

*Night 3: convergence of #724 and #788 (Alum Camp)

7. Mid-Fitness Route:

-Description: Group enters wilderness at Woody's Corral and comes out at same trailhead, after either completing a loop upstream on Little Creek or out & back to Little Turkey Creek (if plenty of rain has recently fallen).

Approximate distance: 7 to 15 miles. TBD by trip leader based on group composition & motivation.

- If Extreme Rain is forecast, this route stays the same because there are no significant & necessary river crossings.

i. *Trail Sequence:* Trail #160 to Trail #161 to Trail #162 to Trail #160, with the options of hiking (a) overland on Trail #160 toward Little Turkey Creek, and / or (b) upstream on Little Creek toward Granite Peak on Trail #161.

ii. *Approximate Itinerary & Campsites:*

*Night 1: Convergence of Trails #160 and #161

*Night 2: Same as Night 1

*Night 3: Either same as Night 1 or at the convergence of Bloodgood Canyon & Trail #161. The group leader will decide & inform the trip coordinator.

8. Low-Fitness Routes: *One of the following two options (A or B) will be chosen by trip coordinator prior to trip based on group composition & the special needs of students involved.*

A-Cherry Creek Route (Vehicle-based / High-needs)

Description: Group camps at Cherry Creek Campground and does day hikes on area trails.

Approximate distance: *Less than 3 miles per day.*

*If unexpected extreme rain hits en route, group will be safe at this site.

I. Trail sequence: In Cherry Creek area, within easy driving distance.

II. Approximate Itinerary & Campsites: All 3 nights at Cherry Creek campground.

B-Rain Creek Route:

Description: Group enters wilderness at Rain Creek trailhead, to Rain Creek, out and back to the same trailhead. *Approximate distance*: *6 miles*

i. *Trail Sequence*: In on Trail 189, out on 189

ii. *Approximate Itinerary & Campsites*:

*Night 1: One mile upstream on Rain Creek from where trail #189 diverges from Rain Creek

*Nights 2 & 3: same as Night 1

**If unexpected extreme rain hits en route, group will be safe at this site* because there are no significant & necessary river crossings.