

# Order of the Arrow

## Gila Lodge #378

The Order of the Arrow members of the Gila Lodge #378 have published this “Where to go Camping” publication for use by Troops, Varsity Teams and Posts in Yucca Council. We hope you have a good camping experience. If you have a favorite place your unit goes, let us know, as we will have additions to this guide.

The Order of the Arrow would like to give thanks to all of you for your contributions to this booklet.

Let's Keep the Outing in Scouting

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**Dedicated To those Scout Leaders whose selfless dedication to Scouting and the Outdoor Code has opened the wilderness for today's Scouts and preserved it for tomorrow's.**

## **The Order of the Arrow**

The Order of the Arrow has been cheerfully promoting camping since 1915. The order of the Arrow helps to strengthen the Scout Oath and Law in the minds of all Scouts. The Order of the Arrow is a group of Scout Honor Campers, who have been elected by members of their unit. Every unit whose members meet certain camping and advancement requirements are entitled to elect one or more boys and one adult Scouter as candidates during each charter year.

The program of the Order of the Arrow consists of promoting good Scout camping and of giving service to the Council's camps and to the District's camping programs. Although the Order of the Arrow affords this opportunity for service at the District and Council levels, its members are constantly reminded that their first obligation is to be active members in and to promote good Scout camping in their own units.

The Order of the Arrow is a national organization, recognized as an integral part of the program of the Boy Scouts of America.

Where to Go Camping Booklet  
Published 1994 Courtesy of Geronimo Chapter  
Editor: Jo Hansen

2001 Edition  
The 2001 edition of this Order of the Arrow Camping Guide  
has been converted to electronic format making it suitable to distribute  
by e-mail or to be place on the web site.

Editor: Jim Karol, Nesatin Chapter

Note: Additions to this guide are most welcome. Please forward your suggestions to:  
JimKarol@aol.com.

## Gila Lodge #378

Yucca Council, BSA #573

Headquarters: El Paso, TX

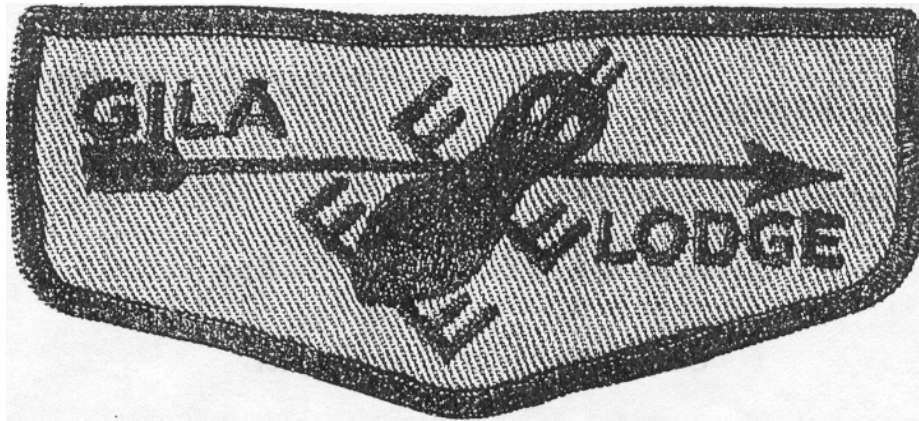
Chartered February: 1948

### Gila (Mimbrenos Tribe)

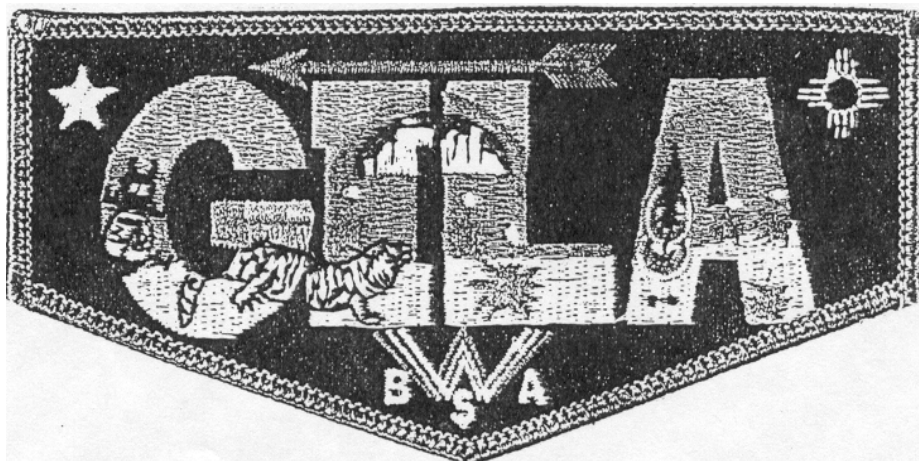
Named after a local landmark, the Gila Cliff Dwellings. Before affiliation with the Order of the Arrow, and honor camper's society existed, the Red Arrow Lodge, composed of those Scouts who made the trip to the Gila Cliff Dwellings.

Lodge Totem: Gila Monster

First Flap (FI) was originated in 1950



Lodge Flap today (S17)



## **Forward**

The Arrowmen of the Gila Lodge of the Order of the Arrow have many fond memories of their camping and hiking experiences with their respective units. We hope that all Scouts will have the opportunity to participate in an active, fun-filled outdoor program. With this in mind, we have prepared this booklet as an aid to the unit leaders in planning their outdoor programs.

While a great deal of time and research has gone into this booklet, we realize that many good camping and hiking sites have probably been overlooked. We welcome any additions and corrections that you have. Please send this information to:

Gila Lodge  
c/o Yucca Council  
P.O. Box 370891  
El Paso, TX 79925

## **Introduction**

Having fun in the outdoors is one of the main reasons why a boy becomes a Scout. If his unit does not provide a well planned program of camping and hiking he may soon lose interest, drop out of the unit, and miss all that Scouting has to offer.

The Scouting program is designed to take place in the outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share the responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at meetings come alive with purpose. The Boy Scouts of America suggest that ten days and nights of camping per year is a minimum objective for a unit. As Arrowmen we would like to see each unit in the Yucca Council exceed this minimum. A great goal for each unit would be one camping experience per month in addition to summer camp and/or high adventure trek.

## **Wilderness Management**

Wilderness is intended for the use and enjoyment of the American People. But we share an obligation to leave it as we found it, in its natural condition, for the pleasure of future visitors.

## **Hints and Reminders**

It is suggested that the unit leader have in his possession a release form for each boy authorizing a qualified physician to administer medical treatment in case of emergency. This form, signed by a parent or guardian, should also include any pertinent medical information. We recommend that you use the health and medical form issued by the Boy Scouts of America.

National policy requires that units apply for a tour permit. Local tour permits are needed for trips under 500 miles. National tour permits for trips over 500 miles. When scouts travel and camp they are representatives of the BSA and, as such, they are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting the organization. As always, the Scout Oath and Law should serve as the guide for conduct.

Camping and hiking trips are the ideal time to learn and practice the Outdoor Code. Unfortunately, you will visit some places where careless, thoughtless campers have left litter and trash and perhaps signs of vandalism. Sometimes this tends to anger those of us who have been taught better through the Scouting program. However, as Scouts with a cheerful spirit and a positive attitude, we can recognize this as a challenge to do our daily good turn. We should always leave a place as better than we found it.

"In Wilderness is the Preservation of the World"

Henry David Thoreau

### **Milk**

A glass of milk (2% low fat - 1 half pint) provides energy you need to:

Walk a mile

Climb 96 stairs in an hour

Bicycle an hour

Viva Milk

**Walk Softly on the Land  
Leave No Trace**

## **BSA Wilderness Policy**

Large numbers of Scout Troops and Explorer Posts enjoy the vast wilderness and back country areas across America each year. Often the size of these Troops and Posts reaches 20 or 30 individuals and in some extreme cases as many as 50 or 60 hit the trails.

Recent studies conducted by both private organizations and public agencies concerned with the impact of the people on our wilderness and backcountry areas indicates the need for an immediate reduction in both the overall number using specific wilderness areas, as well as, in the numbers in each individual wilderness group. Large numbers (larger than 8 or 10 patrol or crew size) wear out campsites by causing excessive compacting of soil, destroying ground cover, building unsightly fire places, and using up fuel wood supplies. They tend to destroy the wilderness solitude, with excessive noise pollution and are not considered desirable neighbors by others using the area. Large groups tend to have a lower proportion of adult leaders for each 8 or 10 campers. This sometimes results in gross violations of wilderness manners, specified regulations of the specific area, and even irresponsible cutting or other destruction of the vegetation.

- In light of these facts and because we are alerted to more unfavorable situations involving scouting personnel each month, the following policy has been adopted by the Program Committee of the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts of America strongly recommends the following procedures and practices to all in Troops and Posts using wilderness or backcountry areas in order that they may have an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate a wilderness atmosphere.
- Limit the size of the group to 8 or 10 with at least two adults included and preferably more.
- Organize each wilderness patrol or crew to function independently (i.e. Each patrol should plan their own trip incorporating different dates or locations, menus, transportation, permits and/or camp in a separate and distinct group.
- When economics or logistics dictate combined transportation, planning or buying, group should still hike, canoe, camp and travel separately from other groups of the same unit. Groups should avoid meeting at the campsite.
- Obtain and use backpacking chemical stoves, particularly in areas where fuel supply is limited. Many wilderness areas now restrict the use of any open fires.
- Contact appropriate supervisory authorities of area to be visited well in advance of planned trip to becoming aware of and to comply with permit requirements and special regulations.
- Place a special emphasis on pre-trip training on the proper wilderness rules of behavior as established in the program of BSA and by the managing agency (i.e., use biodegradable food containers, carry out all trash, dig holes for latrines only in undeveloped areas if permissible, carry all the equipment you need, use no natural materials except firewood and when cutting dead wood is required, use a small folding pack saw, carry only one ax for splitting if needed.
- Place special emphasis on the need for preserving solitude, and minimizing group impact through proper camping practices, sanitation and conservation of fuel.
- Develop the WILDERNESS ETHIC in your Troop or Post and practice it on the trail.
- Match the ruggedness of high adventure experiences in wilderness and backcountry areas to the physical ability and maturity of your Scouts, Explorers and leaders. More rugged trips should be limited to older Scouts in the Troop and to Explorers.

## **The Wilderness Commitment**

### **The Outdoor Code**

As an American, I will do my best to:

#### **Be clean in my outdoor manners.**

I will treat the outdoors as a heritage to be improved for our greater enjoyment, I will keep my trash and garbage out of America's waters, fields, woods and roadways.

#### **Be careful with fire; I will prevent wildfire.**

I will build my fire in a safe place and be sure it is out before I leave.

#### **Be considerate in the outdoors.**

I will treat public and private property with respect, I will remember that use of the outdoors is a privilege I can lose by abuse.

#### **Be conservation minded.**

I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, and wildlife. I will urge others to do the same. I will use sportsmanlike methods in all my outdoor activities.

### **Wilderness Pledge**

Through good camping and hiking practices, I pledge myself to preserve the beauty and splendor of America's wilderness, primitive, and backcountry areas.

I commit myself to:

Set a personal example in following the Outdoor Code. Train those I lead in the skills and attitudes needed to protect and preserve wilderness for future generations. Assure that parties of which I am a part observe the hiking and camping standards that will "leave no trace" of our passing.

## **The Seven Keys to No Trace Camping**

### **Pre-trip Plans**

Take dark colored gear, package food in burnable or pack out containers. Take trash bags. Plan 12 or fewer in your party. Select an area few people visit.

### **Travel**

Stay on the trail. Avoid cutting across switchbacks. Let muddy trails dry. Select hard ground for cross-country travel.

### **Campsites**

Select a spot free from succulent plants. Select campsites out of sight of trails, streams and lakes. Do not dig trenches around tents. Limit stay in one place to four days.

### **Fires**

Use a lightweight gas stove. Use an old fire circle in heavily used areas. Burn small wood gathered from the ground. Make sure your fire is out. In little used areas cover fire scars with twigs.

### **Sanitation**

Do any washing away from streams and lakes. Pour water and dishwater in a hole. Dig latrines 200 feet or more from camp, kitchen and water. Cover wash water holes and latrines. Pack out non-burnable trash.

### **Horses**

Keep number to a minimum. Tie to sturdy trees or rope hitch rail. Hobble or picket in dry areas. Scatter manure.

### **Courtesy**

Hikers will step off trails when horses pass. Control pets. Leave wildflowers. Avoid making loud noise.

### **How long it will last?**

How long will it last if you leave it behind?

Orange Peel - 3 months

Wool Socks - 1 to 5 years

Plastic Bag - 20 years

Plastic Bottle - 50-80 years

Paper Container - 5 months

Milk Carton - 5 years

Nylon Fabric - 30 to 40 years

Aluminum Can - 80- 1 00 years (longer, if submerged)

Courtesy of the Missouri Department of Conservation

### **How Long Does Trash Stay?**

Glass - Decades. Unbroken glass will not be worn down as fast as broken glass.

Cigarette Filters - Years. Exposure to the elements will begin the slow decaying process.

Orange peel to a year. Orange peels basically just dry up.

Plastic Bag - Years, depending on composition and exposure to sun.

Aluminum - Practically forever. The only real determinant is amount of exposure to dust and wind.

Courtesy Tonto National Forest

## **Pack it Out!**

### **No Trace Wilderness Tips**

Do not trench around your tent. Stay only a short time in any one place. On undisturbed sites, move your tent every day. Avoid building camp structures. Wash the dishes, clothes and yourself away from stream or lake. Pour wash water in a sump hole. Cover latrines and sump holes thoroughly before breaking camp. Pick up every bit of trash and pack it out!

### **Leave No Trace Land Ethics**

Practicing a No Trace ethic is a very simple if you remember two things:

1. Make it hard for others to see you and,
2. Leave no trace of your visit.

"Leave it as it is. You cannot improve it. The ages have been at work on it and man can only mar it. What you can do is to keep it for your children, your children's children, and for all who come after you."

President Theodore Roosevelt

## Camping and Hiking Tips

### **Desert Camping.**

Water means life in the desert; don't be without it! Carry plenty of water - at least 1 gallon per person per day in warm weather. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are serious problems. To avoid them, drink lots of water and avoid extreme exertion during the heat of the day. Use care when hiking on slick rock (especially if wet). Sandstone is soft and fractures easily. Sand grains can act like ball bearings under your shoes. Don't camp in dry stream beds. Flash floods can occur at any time of the year, but they are most common during the late summer thunderstorm season. Stay on designated trails. Avoid damaging fragile crypto biotic soil (a dark, crusty covering on the sand) by staying on slick rock when exploring off-trail. An area of mature crypto biotic soil may take 100 years to develop, but can be destroyed by just a few steps.

### **Mountain Camping.**

Allow Time for Acclimatization. Anyone coming into the high mountains from low altitudes should allow a few days to acclimatize before attempting to climb any of the major peaks. Many people who go too high suffer "mountain sickness." The symptoms are vomiting, diarrhea, and the feeling of being very ill.

Day 1 = 0 ft - 7,000 ft

Day 2 = 7,000 ft - 10,000 ft

Day 3 = 10,000 ft - 12,000 ft

Day 4 = 12,000 ft - 14,000 ft

### **Learn the Limitations of Each Member**

Assess the strengths and weaknesses of each member of the group. Do not try anything beyond the ability of the weakest person and set the pace accordingly. Never be too proud to turn back in the face of overwhelming odds.

### **Keep the Group Together**

Individual members of a group should not be allowed to fall behind the main group or go ahead of it. Many mountaineering accidents have resulted from disregarding this rule, if the group is large, select one person to set the pace, another to bring up the rear. If hiking in the dark for some reason, assign each member a number and count-off periodically.

### **Selecting A Campsite**

Select either a well-established campsite if you are in a popular location or a previously unused site if you are in a remote location. If using an existing site, concentrate the use where damage has already occurred. If camping in an unused site, spread out activities. Stay off fragile plants and disperse your use over a wide area. If in a remote location, select a site away from trails, lakes, streams and other campsites.

### **Beware of Loose Rock**

In some areas loose rock can be a serious hazard. Keep your group bunched together when going up or down this type of terrain. Never roll rocks down a mountainside. Another party may be below.

**Pit Method Campfires**

If you must build a fire in a new place, choose a site in mineral soil or thin duff. Dig a small pit in the soil instead of building a fire ring of stones. Build campfires away from meadows, trees, logs and boulders. Keep fires small. Collect only dead or downed wood. Burn all wood in fire pit to ashes. Never leave a fire unattended. Extinguish the fire by drowning it with water so that it is cold to the touch. Be sure to camouflage site before you leave.

**Camp Stoves**

Whenever possible, use a camp stove instead of building a fire. Camp Stoves are more efficient for cooking, while Campfires sterilize the soil and make unsightly scars on the land.

**Use Caution in Crossing Rivers**

Most mountain streams are shallow and present few fording problems. However, when crossing any stream where there is the slightest chance of being carried away, always release the waist strap and one shoulder strap of your pack, so that it can be jettisoned, if necessary. Flash floods occur in the steep, and canyons and arroyos around the perimeter of the mountains. Avoid camping in these hazardous areas or leaving vehicles parked there.

**Get Off Exposed Ridges During Storms**

Summer storms move fast and may be accompanied by rain, hail, high winds, low visibility, and lightning. Do not get caught on a peak or exposed ridge. If you are unable to get down in a lightning storm, stay away from lone trees or rocks. Avoid shallow caves or depression. Ground currents may jump from the edge to your body, insulate yourself from the ground if possible (pack, rope, clothing) and squat down, allowing only your two feet to touch the ground. Do not abandon your metal equipment; it may be needed later on.

**Be Prepared for Emergencies**

Most southwestern mountains are considered "walk-ups" from a technical standpoint during summer months. On long climbs or scrambles above timberline, the safe policy is to start for a summit at dawn and turn back about noon, before summer storms begin to form. A summit party should take along emergency gear in case someone is injured. A plastic tube tent, sleeping bag extra food and water, small gas stove and cook pot, and first aid kit spread among the members will ensure the victim of an accident receiving necessary care until a rescue can be completed.

**Emergency Signals**

Some signals are considered standard by most search and rescue teams:

- \* Distress - 3 evenly spaced signals given within 30 seconds. Repeat as required.
- \* Acknowledgment - 2 signals given in quick succession.
- \* Return to Camp - 4 evenly spaced signals given within 30 seconds. Repeat as required.

"In the back country, you are on your own. Be prepared to take care of yourself and the back country environment"

**You're in Wildlife Country**

We are very fortunate to have many species of wild animals inhabit our area. In the early morning you may see deer grazing in the meadows or see a family of quail running around. This may be the first experience for many of you to see wildlife in their natural habitat. We ask that you follow these RULES, so generations to come can enjoy them also. Remember, they were here before us. Thank you.

**Do Not Chase The Animals**  
**Don't Sneak up on Them**  
**Do Not Feed the Animals**  
**Keep a Bear Proof Camp**

**Do Not Throw Any Objects at the Animals**  
**Do Not Scare the Animals**  
**Make Loud Noises to Scare Them Away**

Keep all food stored in your car or in a bear bag. Put all food away after dark. Put all toilet articles, such as, toothpaste, shaving cream, soap, etc., in a bear proof container. Don't sleep in the same clothes worn while cooking. Sleep a safe distance from cooking area. Don't leave any food in your tents or sleeping area. Keep all trash bags away from sleeping area.

**Don't Go Hiking by Yourself**  
**Don't Hike after Dark**  
**Plan Your Route Carefully**  
**Get a Weather Report**  
**Check With Authorities**  
**Go Properly Equipped**  
**Preventing Heat Stress / Exposure / Hypothermia**  
**Allow Time for Acclimatization**  
**Leave Information With Relatives or Friends**

Take Only Pictures ..... Leave Only Footprints.

"My father considered a walk among the mountains as equivalent to church going"

- Aldous Huxley

## **Water Supply – Methods and Precautions**

Hikers and backpackers are dependent on whatever water is available. Sources can range from a murky puddle to a beautiful fast flowing mountain stream. Prevention of dehydration is extremely important so this group of individuals has to turn to whatever source is available. Lastly, campers can sometimes find that their water supply has been turned off in the campgrounds. They had not thought about taking safe water from home. Unfortunately, it is no longer safe to assume that clear, cool water is okay to drink. Giardia, an intestinal parasite, also known as "backpacker disease", is infecting backcountry users in the western United States with increasing frequency. Any water should be assumed to be contaminated. Another aspect of safety from the standpoint of water is the amount required. Although there are a number of springs and a few sheltered stone "tinajas" in the wilderness, visitors should carry an ample supply of water with them. During the hot months, this can be a surprisingly large amount.

### **Water Carriers:**

Don't leave home without one! At some U S Forest Service campgrounds you may find that either the water had not been turned on or a sign hanging on the faucets saying "water supply unsafe for drinking - contaminated." Sometimes water takes on an off-flavor from the plastic container. This problem can be improved by filling the container with water, adding a small quantity of baking soda, and allowing the water to stand for an hour or so. Of course be sure to rinse prior to adding water for drinking. Do not fill containers using a garden hose that is not rated for drinking. To make water safe for drinking there are several treatments available.

### **Boiling:**

Heating water to a boil will destroy nearly all organisms in their vegetative state which is the form that can cause infection. It does not sterilize, i.e. removal of all life forms! There are bacterial spores that can withstand this treatment. Boiling changes the flavor of water causing it to have what some people describe as a "flat taste." This "off taste is probably due to the loss of dissolved oxygen from the water. Allowing the water to stand for a period of time with frequent stirring many times will improve its flavor. This water is safe.

### **Chemical Treatment:**

At one time halazone tablets were recommended for backpackers. This product supplied chlorine to the water and was reasonably effective against some bacteria but totally ineffective against the encysted form of many protozoa. It was very unstable and readily deteriorated with time. Iodine is another chemical commonly used to treat water. It is the most effective chemical tablet be used against Giardia. As with all chemical additives certain cautions must be given when consuming iodine. People with thyroid problems, pregnant women and people with iodine sensitivity should avoid this treatment. Iodine discolors water and gives it a very different taste. Polar Pure and Potable Aqua are the most common forms available to hikers.

**Filters:**

There are several different makes and models of filters on the market today. Some are very expensive in terms of initial cost and others are affordable by most campers and hikers. What price to give to disease prevention and good health? Whether your needs are those for campers or backpackers, or just to feel secure about your water supply, then your needs can be met by using a filter system. Filters are available at all backpacking and camping stores and in most catalogs.

## Safety

As in other types of outdoor activity, wilderness travel poses some potential hazards. The following describes several situations you might encounter:

**Flash Floods** - Flash floods can kill. High ground is less subject to flooding during the rainy season. Remember a flash flood can easily occur in a dry wash even if it is not raining where you are.

**Water Poisonous Plants** - While not abundant, poison ivy is found in this area. There are also a large variety of other plants that are poisonous if consumed by humans.

**Poisonous Snakes & Insects** - There are several species of rattlesnakes found in the wilderness and various types of poisonous insects, such as, scorpions, black widows, centipedes, etc. are not uncommon. They may be out as early as March and as late as October. Remember that this is their home and that you are the visitor.

**Lightning** - Lightning storms occur regularly, particularly during the months of July and August. There is no truth to the old adage that lightning never strikes twice in the same spot. High points are especially critical.

**Exposure to Heat** - Very high temperatures can be expected at low elevations, Not recognizing the hazard or not being fully prepared for it can quickly lead to severe heat exhaustion or even heat stroke (a medical emergency of major magnitude.)

**Exposure to Cold** - Most people associate hypothermia with blizzards and high mountain conditions but actually exposure problems can occur with above-freezing temperatures. This is especially true in windy and wet conditions.

**Getting Lost** - As with all backcountry situations, the wilderness presents many opportunities for not knowing where you are (or getting lost). Panic can easily set in and a situation can quickly turn from discomforting to deadly. Knowing where you are on your map at all times and using your own abilities and common sense are the best tools you have for preventing this disconcerting and potentially dangerous situation. Remember, that three (3) yells or three (3) of anything is the international signal of distress. Leave your itinerary with someone who can call the proper agency, if there is a true emergency

**Deet Insect Repellent** - Most bug repellents use a chemical nicknamed “Deet” to repel flies and mosquitos. Deet concentration for most repellents ranges from 10 to 40%, but some insect repellents have as much as 95% to 100%. Lately, concern over Deet's safety has led to a renewed interest in using products with lower concentrations of the chemical. Consumers Union has found that repellents with 20 to 25% deet are effective, and are probably the best choice for children. In tests, "natural" products without deet, including Avon's Skin-So-Soft, were found to of little or no protection against mosquitos, but they do discourage flies.

**How to Apply Deet** - Deet is a powerful chemical that is quickly absorbed through the skin into the bloodstream. Most people can use it without problems, but skin rashes and episodes of confusion, irritability and insomnia can occur after repeated and prolonged use of deet. To Minimize Exposure:

- Use a low-deet product - Apply it sparingly; apply more as necessary.
- Don't apply repellent near eyes, on lips or on broken skin. (To apply it to your face, spray it on your hands, and then spread repellent carefully.)
- Avoid breathing a repellent spray - Don't use it near food.
- Once it is not needed - wash it off with soap and water.
- Use a 25% or less deet repellent with children - Don't apply it to their hands, which could end up in their mouths.
- Consider treating your clothes rather than your skin, but note that deet can damage spandex, rayon, and acetate, and the plastic in sunglasses.

Deer Ticks - Tests by the U S Army show that pyrmethrin, which you apply to clothing is safe and effective against deer ticks nymphs. Non-chemical precautions against ticks include: tucking pants cuffs into boots or socks, staying to the center of hiking paths (away from high grasses), and inspecting your skin after leaving tick infested areas. - Consumers Union

## **Heat emergencies**

heat index

national weather service

hypothermia chart

water survival chart

wind chill index.

Historic Trails Award

Fifty Miler Award

**“I’m glad I shall never be young without wild country  
to be young in.”**

Aldo Leopold

**Telephone Numbers & Addresses**

US Fish & Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87103  
505-766-3940

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
615 First Street NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

New Mexico State Monuments  
P. O. Box 2087  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
505-827-6334

New Mexico State Parks  
P.O. Box 1147  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
505-827-7465

Bureau of Land Management  
1474 Rodeo Road  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
505-438-7400

National Park Service  
P.O. Box 728  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-0728  
505-988-6012

Southwestern Region  
US Forest Service  
517 Gold Avenue SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish  
P.O. Box 25112  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
505-827-7911

### Maps

Maps are available from a variety of sources. Several of the nearby and somewhat distant dealer for USGS topographic maps are identified below:

Rollag & Association 805 E. Yandell Dr El Paso, TX 915-533-6277	Coas My Bookstore 317 N Downtown Mall Las Cruces, NM 505-524-8471	Tucson Map & Flag Center 3239 N 1St Ave Tucson, AZ 520-887-4234
Consolidated Title Agency 624 W Main St Safford, AZ 520-428-0180	Apache Trading Post 2701 Highway 90 W Alpine, TX 915-837-5506	Frank X Spencer & Association 611 S Oak St Pecos, TX 915-445-3707
King Surveying 103 E Ash St Deming, NM 505-546-4441	Collected Works Book Store 208 W San Francisco St # B Santa Fe, NM 505-988-4226	Page One 11018 Montgomery Blvd NE Albuquerque, NM 505-294-2026
Troutman Engineering 515 W Market St Silver City, NM 505-538-9422	Wild Mountain Outfitters 541 W Cordova Rd Santa Fe, NM 505-986-1152	Mountain Outfitters 560 W White Mountain Blvd Pinetop, AZ 520-367-6200
Sun Mountain America Incorporated 1609 N Gold St Silver City, NM 505-538-2923	Travel Bug 328 S Guadalupe St # E Santa Fe, NM 505-992-0418	Brodsky Bookshop 226 Paseo Del Pueblo Norte # B Taos, NM 505-758-9468

Rollag & Association has a fine selection of maps of West Texas and Southern New Mexico. Rollag also has some of the Trails Illustrated and Forest Service Maps. Coas My Bookstore sell used books and does not appear to be the typical seller of topographic maps. However, they cover most of the western United States. They have excellent coverage of the four corners states. Tucson Map & Flag Center has remarkable coverage of the Western United States. They also carry Trail Illustrated Maps as well as many international guide maps including Mexico.

You should always call ahead to verify the maps you need are in stock before making the drive. Plan to get your maps at least two months in advance of your trips. If you have to order them by mail or online it might take that long.

Maps can be ordered online at, <http://www.usgs.gov/> . Go to the home page and select the link for topographic maps.

Online maps can be printed by selecting the link for online maps and photos and then selecting Microsoft Terra Server, <http://terraserver.homeadvisor.msn.com/default.asp> . These are reasonable good topographic maps for short trips. These maps are very useful for identifying the quadrangles for the topographic maps. As good as these maps or even the Trails Illustrated Map may be, they cannot substitute for the topographic maps. The 7.5-minute series, covering your entire route is recommended. Adjacent quadrangles should be obtained in the event of emergencies.

Many people are using Global Positioning System Receivers (GPS) now. The prices have come down significantly. GPS receiver are a great aid but cannot and do not replace good map and compass skill. Good Map and Compass skill don't have batteries that go dead. However, the USGS place names site, <http://geonames.usgs.gov/gnishome.html> , is a great way to determine waypoints for a trip. Simply enter names of the various features along your intended route and the site will return the latitude and longitude of the waypoint along with the 7.5-minute quadrangle covering the location. As note of caution be sure you are using the correct map datum with the GPS receiver.

### **Internet Resources**

There is a plethora of information available on-line today. The following sites are recommended for trip planning:

<http://www.yahoo.com/>

<http://www.dayhiker.com/>

<http://www.gorp.com/default.htm>

Try them out along with their many links. The National Park Service also has web sites, [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov). The home site can link you to the sites for the individual parks and are very useful for making contacts with the Rangers. The National Forest Service site, [www.fs.fed.us/](http://www.fs.fed.us/), is also excellent for appropriate gathering information and in particular information of forest fires and fire danger.

The following sites are recommended to aid making you gear selections. These sites are trying to sell something so let the buyer beware. However, these sites and in particular the gear finder at [www.backpacker.com](http://www.backpacker.com) and the gear guide at [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com) are excellent instructional resources.

[www.backpacker.com](http://www.backpacker.com)

[www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)

[www.campmor.com](http://www.campmor.com)

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