

Name of Outing: Parsons Spring / Parson Trail

Location: Sycamore Canyon, Coconino Forest

Dates of Outing: April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 2013

Outing Leader(s)	Name	Email	Phone
Leader	Darrin Kloostra	darrin@precisionglassandalumnum.com	602-410-2609
Co-leader (1)	David Wright	Mr.wright@cox.net	602-618-7404
Co-leader (2)			

**Type of Outing:**  Backpack  Car Camp  Cabin Camp  Bike Outing  Winter Outing  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Degree of difficulty:  Easy

**General Description of Outing:** Highlights of purpose, distance, activities, etc.

To all the Scouts and Adults of Troop 323:

Troop 323 invites you on our upcoming Parsons Spring outing.

On Saturday, April 20th, we will backpack 5 miles along a cool, clear desert stream set in a magnificent red rock canyon. Sycamore Canyon is a place sufficiently unique to have been one of the first areas protected as wilderness in Arizona. The trail leads through the lower reaches of this wilderness through a riparian area rich in plant and animal life. Colorful cliffs that are a unique mix of dark columnar basalt, red sandstone, and buff colored limestone enclose the lush green of this oasis. The trail leads 4 miles to a large pool called Parson Springs where this considerable stream springs to the surface from the underground course it has followed through the majority of the canyon.

Many great features combine to make this trail one of the most popular, and one of the most crowded, on the forest. When we visit this truly exceptional place please exercise extra discretion in making sure the impact you create is as slight as possible. We will practice and observe all "leave no trace" guidelines.

There are about 5 water crossings so water shoes are a must on this outing. Water level is normally only about ankle deep but we don't want any foot issues.

If you are a scout and still need requirement #9 for the Fishing Merit Badge. There will be plenty of opportunity and time to work on this item during this trip. Darrin or Tanner Kloostra can help you fulfill this item.

Please note there is no camping with the first 4 miles of the hike up to the main spring and 200 feet beyond so we will be continuing the hike another mile to a predetermined campsite.

There will be plenty of time on this trip to work on requirements so if you want bring your scout book.

<b>Depart</b>	<b>Where?</b>	<b>When?</b>
Saturday April 20th	Lookout Mountain School	Show up at 8:00am Depart by 8:30am
<b>Return</b>	<b>Where?</b>	<b>When?</b>
Sunday April 21st	Lookout Mountain School	Sometime around 12 noon

**Directions to Outing Location:**

Driving time: 1.5 to 2 hours  
Distance to trail parking lot: Approx 80 miles (includes about 11 miles dirt)

Directions from LOM:

- \*Go North on I-17 Towards Flagstaff
- \*Exit at Camp Verde and take 260 West through Cottonwood
- \*From Camp Verde, take SR 260 west through Cottonwood. Follow the signs for the Tuzigoot National Monument. After you get to Clarkdale, take the Tuzigoot Monument turnoff. It will be on your right. Follow this road until you cross the bridge over the Verde River. Immediately after you cross the bridge, turn left on Sycamore Canyon Road (FR 131). Follow this road 11 miles to the trailhead. This road is passable in a sedan, but the last one mile is somewhat rough.
- \*Once we get to the trailhead, there is abundant parking in the immediate area.

\*\*\*We'll start the hike together at the trailhead.

Please see attached map.

Map is a general overview of the location.

**Anticipated Weather Information:**

The average temp in April is mid 70's for a high and mid 40's for the low. Please make sure you are prepared for other weather conditions as they change daily in this area.

**What you need to Bring:**

**Clothing**

- Beyond the main water pool, the trail is pretty overgrown, so I recommend long pants and even perhaps a long sleeve shirt to hike in.
- Class B wicking shirt
- Fleece jacket
- Extra socks
- Lightweight shirts for layering
- Knit cap, it will be cold at night and early morning
- Water shoes
- Swimsuit
- Towel

**Food**

- \* Eat a good healthy breakfast Saturday morning.
- \* You will need to bring a sack lunch for the hike in on Saturday Mid morning.
- \* Make sure you bring personal drinks (Water) and snacks such as trail mix or energy bars. Make sure you bring and save enough for the hike out on Sunday morning.

Menu: Your lunch Saturday can be by patrol or you may bring individual sack lunches to eat. Because this is an easy trip, we will most likely be at the camp area before lunch time. We will leave this up to your patrol.

You will need to bring (by patrols) your dinner for Sat and breakfast Sunday morning. Please make sure your patrol meets and discusses what to bring and who is bring what so you don't over pack.

**Camping Gear:** Standard individual and patrol backpacking gear, appropriate to the season, will include cooking gear, shelter, fuel, sleeping pads, etc. If you have questions please ask your patrol leader and he can let you know the items you and your patrol need to bring.

**Load Carrying:** Make sure you pack light. While each patrol is bringing in their food and cooking gear, please remember that each patrol will be responsible to carry their patrols trash out. Probably the best place to distribute this gear will be at the school before we leave or at the Trailhead before we begin the hike. New scouts, please ask your patrol for help in packing your backpacks. You can also get vital help and info during the troop meeting on April 9th

**Other Equipment**

This is a great little fishing area so if you have small fishing equipment, I recommend that you bring it with you. This is one area that the Green eared sunfish grow to a large size. If you are over 14, you will need you AZ fishing license. No trout stamp is required.

If you have trekking poles, we recommend you bring them but they are not an essential on this trip.

A small camera as this is a beautiful area for pictures and memories.

Each Patrol must bring their water filter.

Please make sure your patrol brings the wash basin from your gear as we will be washing dishes with these, not in the creek.

**Other Outing Information** (e.g. activities; special lodging; training required)

\*See the attached map.

\*Please double check the current weather conditions prior to heading out Saturday morning and make sure you pack weather appropriate clothing.

**Important Numbers**

<b>Scoutmaster</b> <b>Mr. Wright</b>	<b>Other</b> Darrin Kloostra _____ _____	<b>Other</b>   _____	<b>Other</b> _____
602-618-7404	602-410-2609		

**Troop First Aid Kit and Medical Binder Holder:**

David Wright \_\_\_\_\_

**Outing Approved by Committee?** Yes / No

**Tour Permit Approved by District?** Yes / No

**Outing Fee: \$15**

