**BSA Golden Triangle Hiking Event**

The event will be a three stages hike to promote Scouting in the Lake District and engaging Packs, Troops, Crews, and Post in a hike to share camaraderie and team work.

The Golden Triangle Hiking stages are:  1rst Mount Dora to Leesburg, 2nd Mount Dora to Umatilla, and 3rd Umatilla to Leesburg.

The stages will be cover one per year and started with the first one on January 13, 2018.  The second stage was on January 12, 2019, and **the third stage is schedule for January 11, 2020.**  Then, the first stage will be done again in January 2021, and so on as to establishing an event of long-lasting tradition.

* The Third stage of the hike will start at the Umatilla Public Library in Umatilla and will be ending at the Venetian Gardens Park in Leesburg.
* Umatilla Public Library, 412 Hartfield Dr., Umatilla
* Venetian Gardens Park, 109 E. Dixie Ave., Leesburg

The participants will earn a patch per stage completed and those completing the three stages will be able to combine those patches in one.  There will also be a patch for participation even if the participant does not complete the event.

**How it will be done:**

The second stage of the hike (Umatilla to Leesburg) is over15.5 miles event. A 20 miles route will be set up for those scouts working in the Hiking Merit Badge (Eagle Scout MB) to be completed in the Leesburg section of the hike once reaching the Venetian Gardens Park.

The Packs hike will be a symbolic one since the completion of each stage is a physically demanding activity.  The Packs will initiate the hike with everyone else but will be limited to specific sections.  The idea is to get the Cub Scouts interesting in joining a Troop, and for the Webelos to start interacting with Scouts in a more direct manner.  The Packs will be welcome to be at the resting stations to helping in providing support and at the end of the hike they will be welcome to join the main group completing it.

Cub Scouts can hike for short sections of their choice:

1. From Umatilla Public Library to Umatilla City Hall.
2. From Umatilla City Hall to Umatilla Orange Factory.
3. From Umatilla Orange Factory to Lake County Fair Ground.
4. From the Circle Road near the Leesburg Water Tower to Leesburg Venetian Gardens.

The Cub Scouts will be also welcome to meet the Boy Scouts at each one of the resting stations for a moment of camaraderie.

In the route, there will be “resting oasis” along the way.  Each unit participating must provide the support for their members.  Each unit will have water, snacks, check their members for physical/emotional conditions/stamina and provide basic care for those participating in the hike.  There will be bathroom facilities in the beginning and ending of the route and two of the resting stations. Before moving to the next station, adult leaders will inspect the restrooms facilities to be sure they are clean and in working conditions.

Resting stations will be set up through the route to allow the participants experiencing problems with blisters and physical stamina decreasing to take care of immediate needs in order to continue the hike.  To alleviate the burden, we will be stopping frequently for the benefit of those reaching that level of the hike to recoup.

The hike is over 15.5 miles to be completing in one day.  It will take about 7 to 8 hours to do so due to the walking pace of youth and adult participants.  We have scouts working in their Hiking Merit Badge and for them an extension hike in the Leesburg area will be provide to fulfill the 20 miles merit badge requirement.

**The hike is schedule to be on January 11, 2020, with starting the assembly of the units at 7:00 AM to start hiking at 7:30 AM with an expectation to complete it in between 3:00 and 3:30 PM.**

The participants will have the prerogative to select their length of their hike and will be able to stop hiking at any of the resting stations once their adult leaders and organizer are notifying of such intention.

The hike is a physically demanding event. We want each participant to enjoy it and is the responsibility of each participant to be conscious of their physical abilities to complete the hike or sections of it. Adult leaders will be evaluating young participants in the march. If there is a determination a scout or adult leader is badly struggling and unable to continue the hike, such scout/adult leader will be transport to the next resting station where his unit support team will be responsible to provide care and secure environment.

We will be hiking as a group due to security concerns and the necessity of crossing major highways all at once with the support of the Sheriff Department. If participants are struggling in reaching one of the resting stations, transportation will be providing to transfer the person to the forward resting station where his unit support team will be responsible to provide care and secure environment.

For security reasons, no one will be allowing to hike way behind the main group. If a hiker is struggling in keeping the comfortable pace of the main group, it will be request for that hiker to use transportation to the next resting station where he/she may be dismissing from continue the hike if his/her physical condition is of concern to the organizers. Remember, the idea is to share a good time, there is no need to hurt yourself doing the hike so, be conscious of your personal limitations and abilities to complete your goal during the hike.

**What is required to bring for the hike:**

1. Scouts/Adult Leaders participating mush have their BSA Medical Form, Part A and B, available on site. Each Unit Leader will be responsible to secure each participant from their units have such form in the beginning of the hike and through it. In case of a medical emergency, Emergency 911 will be dial and the participant in need of medical assistant will receive it from a certify paramedic who will evaluate the need of transporting the participant to the nearest medical facility.
2. Unit Adult Leaders are requiring to bring participants roster for their respective units to be provide to the organizer for accountability and accomplishment credits for patches.
3. Each Unit most have a logistic support team at each one of the resting stations. Those support elements can travel from station to station until the completion of the hike.
4. Unit Adult Leaders are highly encouraging to wear safety vest for easy identification and add a security element to the main body of the hike.
5. Scouts are highly encouraging to wear bright color clothing to add a security element to the main body of the hike.
6. Each participant must bring water and snacks for the hike in sufficient quantities to last them until reaching a resting station.
7. Units are encouraging to bring their Unit Flags for the opening ceremony and when reaching the finish line. Through the hike, Units are encouraging to bring their Patrol Flags. Also, wear your uniform as we hike town sections (in between towns you may put your scout uniform shirt in your backpack).
8. Each Unit Adult Leader will be responsible in keeping the discipline within his unit participants. If there are scouts/adults showing disruptive behavior that can jeopardize the security of the hikers, such individual will be remove from the hike at the following resting station or can be requested to use transportation to it as an indication that his behavior is of such nature that allowing such individual to continue in the hike will be a detriment to his safety and other participants security.
9. Walking Sticks are highly recommended.

**Remember, even in Florida can be cold in January, specially under windy conditions so, dress in layers and have a hat or cover to keep you protected from the weather.**

If you have any question or concern regarding this project, please, contact **Francisco Rivera** at:

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