

2009 Kern River Whitewater Merit Badge



Merit Badge Pre-requisites: Canoeing Merit Badge

- EVENT:** Thrilling Whitewater Rafting and Kayaking on the beautiful Upper Kern River!
- DATE:** Friday afternoon May 15th to Sunday evening May 17th
- TIME:** Meet at Sports Authority Parking Lot no later than 3:30 PM on Friday May 15th (Please let me know if you have trouble arriving at this time) It will take approximately 6 hours to drive to Kernville on Friday evening. We will return around 10 PM Sunday evening (Bring your homework to do on the road ☺)
- Description:** This is basically a car-camp where we camp at Frandy Campground on the Kern River in Kernville, CA. The outfitters that we will be using are based at our campground so there will be no need to carry our equipment beyond camp. The Whitewater Merit Badge is a two-day course taught by the Outfitter, Eagle Rafting (Web Site: www.eaglerafting.com) Please see the program description on the attached sheet or go the outfitter's website. If you already have the MB, we will be spending Saturday rafting further up the river on Class III and IV water with Whitewater Voyages on their "Upper Kern Dazzler" trip. You can look at their website at www.whitewatervoyages.com. On Sunday, everyone will be together taking on the infamous Power-House rapids such as "Big Daddy" and "Ewings" using a combination of rafts and Inflatable Kyaks!
- Friday:** We will drive from Encinitas to Kernville, CA which is located near Lake Isabella (270 miles) We will camp Friday and Saturday nights near the Kern river at Frandy Park (Web Site: www.frandy.net) Friday dinner will be fast-food on the road.
- Saturday:** Patrol cooked breakfast. Boys will meet for Merit Badge at 9AM, See the outfitter's description below. A hot lunch will be provided by the outfitter. We will complete the day with a "gourmet" Patrol cooked dinner.
- Sunday:** Patrol cooked breakfast, everyone meet for the river at 9 AM. Boys will complete any remaining Merit Badge requirements and everyone will spend the day on the river either in whitewater canoes or on a group raft, whichever they are more comfortable with. A hot lunch will be provided by the outfitter. Dinner will be fast food on the road back home. We will leave around 4 PM and will not return home until around 10 PM Sunday night.
- What to Bring:** See the attached list
- Cost:** Whitewater Merit Badge = \$220
Non-Merit Badge -= \$240 + \$10 for a Wet Suit if you don't bring one.
Plus you will need to bring \$money for Friday & Sunday fast food dinner on the road and Ice Cream. **Availability will be on a first come, first served basis so please bring a check, permission slip, and signed waiver form.**

2009 Kern River Whitewater Trek Permission Slip

Friday May 15th - Sunday May 17th, 2009

Trek Leader: John Anderson; Cell Phone: (760) 634-7744

Scout in Charge: Craig Anderson

Please bring this form, the signed waiver form and your money to the meeting or mail or drop it by Mr. Anderson's house at 483 Via Malaga, Encinitas

Scout Attending: _____ Parent Attending: _____

White Water Merit Badge: \$220 ea x # _____ = \$ _____ Cash _____ Check # _____ Account _____

Supervise White Water Merit Badge(Sat) + Raft on Sun: \$125 ea x # _____ = \$ _____ Cash _____
Check # _____ Account _____

Non-Merit Badge: Need Wet Suit: \$250ea x # _____ = \$ _____ Cash _____ Check # _____ Account _____

Non-Merit Badge: NO Wet Suit: \$240 ea x # _____ = \$ _____ Cash _____ Check# _____ Account _____

I would like to drive and I have _____ total seat belts.

Parent

Permission: _____

Whitewater Rafting Trek

What to Bring

When packing just keep in mind our activity and the location. We will be setting up camp in the dark on Friday night. The boys will get wet on Saturday and Sunday while rafting. We will be in the Sequoia National Forest and it will likely be very cool in the evenings and sunny during the days. Try to pack everything in a single backpack or duffle bag if possible. **All equipment will be carried in a trailer and will not be accessible during the drive so bring a small "carry-on" that they can have with them in the car for the ride up and back that can carry their MP3 player and homework.** We will be getting home late on Sunday so I suggest that the boys bring any homework they need to get done with them so they can do it on the trip up or back.

- ▶ White Water Merit Badge Book (Don't forget to read it!)
- ▶ Dry Clothes for Trip up, back, and at camp
- ▶ Wet Clothes for Saturday and Sunday
- ▶ Wet Shoes that tie or have a strap, Flip-Flops are not acceptable
- ▶ Dry Shoes for the trip up, back, and at camp
- ▶ Plastic Bag to store wet clothes
- ▶ Jacket/Sweatshirt
- ▶ Wet suit (if you have one)
- ▶ Swimsuit
- ▶ Hat & Sunglasses w/ strap
- ▶ Sunscreen and Chap stick
- ▶ Insect Repellant
- ▶ Personal Toiletries
- ▶ Personal Dining items (Utensils, Cup, Plate/Bowl)
- ▶ Tent & Buddy
- ▶ Sleeping Bag, Ground Pad & Pillow
- ▶ Flashlight/Headlamp
- ▶ Camp Chair (if desired)
- ▶ Nalgene bottle and/or Water Bladder
- ▶ Canoeing Gloves (if desired)



Saturday Whitewater Merit Badge:

Our outfitter is Eagle Rafting. Their Website is: www.eaglerafting.com

Program Description:

Boy Scouts can earn their Canoeing or Whitewater Merit Badges in just two fun-filled days on the Kern River! We have programs already in place that follow all the guidelines from the Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge series. The programs are run by Boy Scouts counselors and Eagle Rafting staff.



Whitewater Merit Badge

Once you have mastered canoeing on still water you are ready to challenge yourself with the thrills of whitewater. Once again, we strongly emphasize safety along with the fun.

In this two-day program the scouts will learn how to use and care for the equipment, learn the International Scale of River Difficulty, how to read a river, kayak maneuvers, canoe maneuvers, self and buddy rescue, safety, rafting, and many more exciting subjects.

The scouts are required to pass a Scout Gate Test in under 120 seconds. If they do it in less than 60 seconds they achieve an 'exceptional time'. Testing with the Scout Gates is done at the end of the first day and morning of the second day. Once all the scouts have completed the course on the second day the rest of the trip is spent on the river for the one day adventure.



During the one day adventure the scouts learn how to eddy up and how to enter the moving river. Scouts also capsizes their Inflatable Kayaks (I.K.'s) and recover. Time is spent above Big Daddy where we introduce surfing on waves to the scouts. This is where all their skills are pushed, learning how to stay on the wave and building on their skills.

Saturday Non-MB Trek: (www.whitewatervoyages.com)



Upper Kern River - Dazzler Half-Day Rafting Trip (Class III-IV) April through July (depends on snowpack)



On the Dazzler, after a quick warm up run, we head straight for the very best of the charging, galloping Upper Kern - where we ride and ride and ride some more!

The 20+ mile Wild and Scenic Upper Kern is naturally divided into numerous shorter sections with names that are legends in the world of whitewater: Limestone, Chemise Gorge, Powerhouse, Cables, Ant Canyon.

Each of these famous runs is different at different flows, and each has its own unique ideal flow. So, whichever sections are best on the flow on the day of your trip, those are what we run. Our buses and flatbed raft trailers make transfers from run to run smooth and swift.

On these trips there is no lunch, no down time, no flat water, just maximum, high-energy, class III-IV action and non-stop whitewater fun!

Memorable Upper Kern Rapids include Limestone, Joe's Diner, Betty's Bakery on the Limestone Run; The Wall, Tombstone, Pepsi Challenge/Tequila Chute on the Camp 3 Run; Powerhouse Rapid on the River Kern Run; Ewings and Big Daddy on the Lickety Run.

Sunday Trailblazer Program



This one day program is an outstanding day on the river in Rafts and Inflatable Kayaks (I.K.'s). The day starts with two rafting trips in the morning with guided rafts. Lunch is included in this program. After lunch the scouts go to the Inflatable Kayaks where the scouts learn how to maneuver their I.K.'s around the river and rocks.

WHITEWATER VOYAGES

For Rivers: Kaweah, Kern, Merced, Tuolumne, Yuba

**PLEASE BRING THIS FORM
(SIGNED) TO THE TRIP CHECK-IN**

RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT

This is a release. Read it carefully before signing. This release essentially states that I know I am going on a whitewater rafting trip in a wilderness/outdoor environment -- not on an amusement park ride or to an air-conditioned shopping mall. As a result of the inherent risks in this activity, I know I may die, get hurt, or damage my belongings. If any of these occur, I understand that I cannot make a claim, sue, or expect WHITEWATER VOYAGES, its owners, officers, agents, employees, associates, the State of California, its Department of Parks and Recreation, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Placer County Water Agency, and Sacramento Municipal Utility District (hereinafter referred to collectively as WHITEWATER VOYAGES) to be legally responsible or pay for any damages.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF RISKS: I, the undersigned, hereby acknowledge that I have voluntarily chosen to go on this whitewater rafting trip with WHITEWATER VOYAGES. Certain risks are inherent in any recreational activity and cannot be eliminated, altered, or controlled, and these risks that contribute to the unique character of the activity can also be the cause of injury, illness, death, and damages. I know and fully understand that a whitewater rafting trip, whether on a raft, oar boat, kayak, or any other type of vessel, is an outdoor adventure activity in wilderness environment with inherent risks and hazards where serious accidents can occur, participants can die, sustain injuries and property damage. Also, I understand that **Class IV and V** represent the most difficult and dangerous levels of whitewater and recognize that the risks associated with whitewater rafting are greatly increased.

I acknowledge and willingly assume all risks and hazards in whitewater rafting and river-related camping from the pre-embarkation rendezvous until the conclusion of the trip, including, but not limited to, (1) loss of control of the raft, falls in, out, or about the raft, collision with other participants, equipment, other rafts, rocks, trees, and any portion of the interior of the raft, and any other man-made or natural obstacles, whether obvious or not; (2) judgment, decision-making and conduct of the guides; (3) submersion in water, drowning; (4) encounters with animals, wildlife and insects; (5) exposure to wilderness environment, extreme temperatures, and inclement weather, remote areas, wilderness terrain, including travel by foot or vehicle in any way related to this activity, whether at camp or elsewhere; (6) assistance in lifting and/or carrying rafting equipment; (7) rescue-related injuries; and (8) unavailability of immediate and appropriate medical attention in case of injury.

I further understand and acknowledge that WHITEWATER VOYAGES provides foot cups in some of its boats to assist participants in stabilizing themselves. The use of foot cups may present an increased risk of knee, ankle, or other injuries because of their restrictive nature. **Use of foot cups is totally voluntary.**

I understand and acknowledge that the above list is not complete or exhaustive, and that other risks, known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, may also exist and result in injury, illness, disease, death or damage. **My participation in this activity is purely voluntary and I elect to do so at my own risk.**

RELEASE: In consideration for WHITEWATER VOYAGES allowing me to participate on this trip, I voluntarily agree to release, discharge, and hold harmless WHITEWATER VOYAGES and for any and all claims of liability arising out of their negligence, fault, recklessness, or any other act or omission which causes the undersigned illness, injury, disease, death, and damages of any nature in any way connected with my participation in this rafting activity. I also expressly agree to release and discharge WHITEWATER VOYAGES from any act or omission of negligence in rendering or failing to render any type of rescue, emergency or medical services. **In signing this document, I fully recognize and understand that if I (or any minor on whose behalf I am signing this release) am hurt, die, or my property is damaged, I am giving up my right to make a claim or file a lawsuit against WHITE WA TER VOYAGES, even if they negligently or by some other act or omission cause the injury or damage.**

I further agree, to hold harmless, defend, and indemnify WHITEWATER VOYAGES from all defense costs, including attorney's fees incurred in connection with claims for bodily injury, wrongful death, or property damage, sustained by any minor under 18 years of age on whose behalf I am signing, or which I may have caused to spectators or other third parties, whether negligent or not, in the course of my participation in this activity.

As parent or legal guardian of a participant under 18 years of age, I have read and voluntarily agree that said minor may participate in this whitewater rafting trip, and I sign this release on their behalf and on the behalf of the minor's parents and/or legal guardians. In addition, I give W HITewater VOYAGES permission to treat said minor in case of illness, injury, emergency, or accident. Should emergency medical services become necessary, for the undersigned participant or minor, the expenses are the sole responsibility of the participant and not that of WHITEWATER VOYAGES. **Personal medical and travel insurance is strongly advised for all participants.**

WHITEWATER VOYAGES reserves the right to accept or deny service to any person. I hereby agree to follow all rules, regulations, and instructions of WHITEWATER VOYAGES while on this trip. I also certify that I and any minor on whose behalf I am signing, are physically and mentally capable of participating in these activities. I hereby represent that I have informed WHITEWATER VOYAGES of any pertinent medical conditions that may affect my or the minor's participation in these rafting activities. I hereby agree that WHITEWATER VOYAGES may use film or photographic records of this rafting trip for its promotional and/or commercial purposes.

The Venue of any dispute that may arise out of this agreement or otherwise between the parties to which WHITEWATER VOYAGES or its agents is a party shall be either the town of El Sobrante, California, Justice Court or the County or State Supreme Court in Contra Costa County.

Guide school/skills workshop participants: I understand that Whitewater Voyages is not certifying my guiding proficiency or readiness to go to another outfitter and guide right away after this training. I understand I will need additional extended training and practice to acquire proficiency in the skills being taught.

I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY. I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM ASSUMING ALL THE RISKS INHERENT IN THIS WHITE WA TER RAFTING ACTIVITY. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS A RELEASE OF ANY AND ALL CLAIMS. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNDERSIGNED AND WHITE WA TER VOYAGES, THEIR OWNERS, OFFICERS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES, AND THAT IT CANNOT BE MODIFIED OR CHANGED IN ANY WAY BY THE REPRESENTATIONS OR STATEMENTS BY WHITE WA TER VOYAGES OR BY THE UNDERSIGNED. I VOLUNTARILY SIGN MY NAME AS EVIDENCE OF MY ACCEPTANCE OF ALL THE PROVISIONS IN THIS RELEASE AND MY AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND BY THEM.

Present this form at the river. Please print clearly.

Name (please print)		Day Phone	Evening Phone
Address		City, State, Zip	
E-mail Address:			Date of Birth
Rafting Date(s)	River(s)	Trip Length (No. of Days on the River - Please circle one): Days: 1/2 1 2 3 4 5 or More 1 Hour	
Are you over 18? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No* L Accompanying adult must sign & date here:			
Signature (If under 18 parent or legal guardian must sign here also*) N		Today's Date	Reservation No.

*Minors not accompanied by their parent must bring this form signed by their parent or legal guardian. Adult accompanying the minor must also sign this release as a verification of the parent/guardian signature. (Summer Camp & Camp RAFT courses excluded.) 2009 Release Form 2/24/2009

Eagle Rafting, Inc.

Trip Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Trip Type: Full Day [] ½ Day [] Single Trip [] WWMB [] CM [] TRLBLZR [] PP&R []

ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND LIABILITY RELEASE

This is a release. It says; I recognize I will participate in an activity where risk is natural. Even though Eagle Rafting, Inc. holds an excellent safety record (with procedures approved by the U.S. Forest Service) accidents, though rare, can happen. I expressly assume full responsibility for the outcome of my participation and if I get hurt, die, or damage belongings. I will not make claim, sue or expect any legal responsibility for Eagle Rafting Inc. I also understand that I can withdraw from this group activity at anytime.

While Eagle Rafting does not wish to frighten me, it is necessary that I fully understand that risk, either ashore, in a boat, or in the water, could lead to property damage, personal injury or fatality. Ashore, slips and falls could result in accidents. Contact with poison oak or with insects, wildlife or even persons could lead to injury. Other accidents involving shuttle vehicles are possible. In the boat, I could be twisted or thrown around and collide with other people, their paddles, or boat flips. Here, I could experience hypothermia, mental anguish, or heart attack and could break bones or drown. Entanglements with trees or rocks could lead to severe injury or death. In each possibility, exposure to extreme temperatures or bad weather, coupled with distant medical help, would add risk. In addition, I understand that class 2, and certainly class 3 whitewater increases the adventure’s difficulty and risk. **REGARDLESS, MY PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACTIVITY IS PURELY VOLUNTARY AND I ELECT TO DO SO AT MY OWN RISK I EXPRESSLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL RESPONSIBLY AND RISK (BOTH KNOWN AND UNANTICIPATED) TO MYSELF, TO OTHERS, AND THE PROPERTY.**

In consideration for allowing me to participate on this adventure, I voluntarily agree to release, discharge, and hold harmless Eagle Rafting, Inc. (and owners, officers, employees and associates in any capacity) from making claims. These could be claims arising out of their suggested negligence, recklessness, incorrect decisions, strict liability, breach of contract, or any act which causes my accident, illness death, or from damages in any way associated with my participation in this activity. This release will apply also to any act of negligence in rendering (or in not rendering) any type of emergency or medical aid. **IN SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, I FULLY UNDERSTAND AND RECOGNIZE THAT IF I (OR ANY MINOR ON WHOSE BEHALF I AM SIGNING THIS RELEASE) AM HURT, DIE, OR HAVE PROPERTY DAMAGED. I AM GIVING UP MY RIGHT(AND THAT OF MY FAMILY MEMBERS, HIERS, AND ASSIGNS) TO MAKE CLAIM OR FILE A LAWSUIT AGAINST ANY BOAT OWNER, OR ASSOCIATES, AND ALL PARTIES AND AFFILIATES NAMED HERE, EVEN IF THEY NEGLEGENTY, AMLICIOUSLY, OR BY SOME OTHER ACT (OR OMISSION) CAUSE THIS INJURY.**

If a parent or legal guardian or a participant under 18 years of age, I agree that this minor may participate in this activity. I sign this release on their behalf. In addition, I give Eagle Rafting, Inc. permission to treat this minor in case of apparent need. Eagle Rafting, Inc. reserves the right to deny or discontinue service to any person. I agree to follow all rules and their instructions. Any medical services and expenses will remain solely my responsibility. I also certify that I (and any minor on whose behalf I am signing) am physically and mentally capable of this activity. Any photographic record of my participation may be used for advertising and commercial purposes without recourse.

The Venue of any dispute that may arise out of this agreement or otherwise between the parties to which Eagle Rafting, Inc. or its agents as a party shall be either in Lake Isabella, CA Justice Court or the County of State Supreme Court in Kern County.

Should it be necessary for Eagle Rafting, Inc. (or someone on its behalf) to incur attorney’s fees and costs to enforce any part of this agreement, I agree to indemnify them for all fees and costs. If any portion of this agreement is judged invalid, the validity of the remaining portions will not be affected.

MY SIGNING BELOW INDICATES I HAVE READ AND NOW COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND THIS DOCUMENT. I KNOW THAT IT AFFECTS MY LEGAL RIGHTS AND I AGREE TO BE BOUND BY ITS TERMS.

Printed
Passenger Name _____ Age _____ Phone Number _____

Is passenger under 18 years? YES/NO
If minor passengers (less than 18 years old on day of trip) will not be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, the proper signatures needed to be provided in advance. Instead, bring this parent or legal guardians.

Signature: _____ Date _____
Address: _____ E-mail: _____
City/State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone Number: _____
Signature _____ Relationship: _____