



7:30 a.m. Saturday. Parents drop off Scouts and their gear. After a week of rain, the morning is clear. Perfect!



Mr. Barton plans the route, the new Scouts in the pack are excited about their first "wilderness" hike!



Marching orders from Mr. Barton and more details about Wildcat Falls at Slickrock Wilderness Area.



A beautiful drive up through the mountains. Hey, did someone say Mr. Barton's van has turbo jets?



Everyone gets organized for the hike in — water, food, supplies — it ALL has to be backpacked in.



The hike begins. The wilderness area is named for Joyce Kilmer, best known for writing the poem "Trees".



"I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree." This virgin wilderness area has trees over 100 years old!



The way in is about 1,000 feet DOWN. Hmm, wonder what that means about the way out??



The trail got very steep and rough, our boys really performed above and beyond, time and time again!



Crossing the very large creeks with rapid water took lots of teamwork, everyone pitches in to help.



There's only so much this newsletter editor can take, here's where Mike and I spent the night — The Blue Boar Inn!



Next morning, we were ready to greet them coming out. Get the camera ready. Oops, not them, but a backpacking dog!



First out! Tom and Brad. Good job, guys!



While waiting for the other boys to come up the steep trail, Tom and Brian make friends with a snake.



Before heading home, "Where are we going to eat lunch?" McDonald's wins the vote over Taco Bell and KFC.