

Kern River Backpacking May 28-30, 2016

This year's trip to the Kern River was different because of the river itself. After the snow that dropped this past winter, there was enough snow melt to see a significant change in the flow of the river. The river was raging to the extent that the campsite we went to last year was covered in water.

Because of the increased snow melt, the river was very cold. But it was still the focal point for the boys.



The boys start out (left) sticking in their toes, then step in, and you can see one of them goes all the way under. This became a challenge that the boys started, and it eventually attracted all the boys (right).

Every time the boys got near the river, one or two of them went in the cold water a little farther. Just as you would think, one or two decide to actually get all the way in and float down the river.



This scout was the first one to actually float down the river. He not only did it once, not twice, but three times



After his brother did it three times, this scout went for it. Notice the relaxed flotation posture.



Another scout jumped in and he immediately wanted to get out. It was pretty cold.

when we weren't trying to brave the cold water, there was time to relax. The sound of the river in the background gave us a good sound. There was time to try and fish, which was pretty difficult with the river running at such a high level and fast pace.



A Scout and his dad prepare to go fishing

Another river related activity started some healthy competition--Skipping rocks. Those scouts can really skip those rocks, sometimes all the way across the river.



Scouts skipping rocks. Some good competition. Even adults got into it.



Scouts talking about the river. "Man it wasn't that cold, just jump in"

So Kern river was very nice, warm and fun. We had a good group of boys out there on the trail, and ofcourse teh backpacking food was always interesting. Watching the boys prepare food confirmed that you can mix almost anything with hot water and eat it.

Sitting around camp, telling stories and rustling up some grub



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