



Trek Wild Advanced Backpacking (Easy) Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Sierra National Forest



Wednesday July 29 - Sunday August 2, 2026



Join GSCCC's Trek Wild (bit.ly/TrekWild) on a backpacking trip to the spectacular Dinkey Lakes Wilderness! We'll car camp one night, backpack to Cliff Lake, then spend two full days exploring the lakes, peaks, and glades of this magnificent area on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada.

Most of Dinkey Lakes Wilderness sits above 8,000 feet in rolling, timbered terrain, with Three Sisters Peak soaring to 10,619 feet near the 16 lakes clustered in the west-central region. Stands of white fir, red fir, and Jeffrey pine are interspersed with large mountain meadows and rocky outcroppings that break the skyline. John Muir Wilderness lies just to the east and north.

With a lower elevation than Eastern Sierra trips, the water will be warmer, altitude sickness should not be an issue, and campfires are usually allowed. Mosquitoes should be gone by this date, and weather should be warm in the day and chilly at night.

Distance: 10 - 15 Miles (includes optional day hikes)

Girl Scout Rating: Advanced-Easy, based on multiple nights with modest distance and elevation gain, with all campsites reachable from the trailhead in < half day.

Elevation Range: 8,200' – 9,500' for backpacking, up to 10,320' for Dogtooth Peak.

Badges: Each girl will have the opportunity to earn an outdoor badge, depending on Girl Scout level and prior badges. Girl Scouts can also work on the leadership awards that are prerequisites for work on Higher Awards.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Basic Backpacking Course. Girls can attend without an adult.

Cost: \$100 registration covers permit, campsite, patch, group equipment, and some meals. Backpackers also need to contribute ~\$50-100 toward food and gas. Refunds available only in the event the trip is cancelled.

Itinerary:

Weds. Day 1 Travel day (6 hr drive) through Fresno, to Courtwright Reservoir and camp at Trapper Springs Campground. En route, visit giant sequoias in McKinley Grove and look for Shorty's cabin.

Thurs. Day 2 Early start to drive (5 min) and backpack to Cliff Lake (5.m

Fri and Sat. Day 3-4 Day hike & explore 7 lakes (at least) and 4 peaks, including Dogtooth Peak, which has amazing rockhounding.

Sunday Day 5 Early start to backpack out (5.5 miles), have lunch on the road, and arrive home by dinner.



Forms: You will need to complete the Specific Trip Parent Permission Form and the High Risk Activity Permission Form, which will be provided.

Gear requirements: Backpacks, tents, sleeping bags, and bear canisters and pads may be loaned to participants if needed. Participants will need to have sturdy hiking shoes or boots that have been tested prior to the trip (guidance will be provided). **A detailed packing list will follow and meal planning and shopping will take place prior to the trip.**

PRE-TRIP MEETING - June 2, 7 pm. Plan food, gear, transportation, and training hikes. In person (Santa Barbara) and remote access.

PACK CHECK - July 14, 7 pm. In person (Santa Barbara) and remote access.

Contact leaders with questions:

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Find us on Facebook (Trek Wild Backpacking GSCCC) and Instagram (@trekwildbackpackinggscce)

