



Desolation Wilderness, California

July 7-July 19, 2026



Tuesday, July 7, 2026

5:00AM ET Depart from School in Pemberville.
6:30AM ET Arrive at Detroit Airport. Everyone checks in and goes through security.
8:35AM ET Flight Departs Airport (Flight: ???).
12:35AM PT Flight arrives at Reno Airport. Pick up vans.
Stop for supplies at Walmart Supercenter
Stop to pick up stoves and fuel bottles at The UPS Store
Stop at fast food for lunch (McDonalds, Burger King)
4:00PM PT Arrive at Fallen Leaf Campground.

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

7:30AM PT Depart Fallen Leaf Campground
10:15AM PT Arrive at Calaveras Big Tree State Park.
2:30PM PT Depart Calaveras Big Tree State Park.
5:15PM PT Arrive at Fallen Leaf Campground

Thursday, July 9, 2026

7:30AM PT Depart Fallen Leaf Campground
8:30AM PT Arrive at Twin Lakes Trailhead. Dayhike to Island Lake
4:00PM PT Depart Twin Lakes Trailhead
5:00PM PT Arrive at Fallen Leaf Campground

Friday, July 10, 2026

7:30AM PT Depart Fallen Leaf Campground
8:00AM PT Arrive at Echo Lake Trailhead. Begin backpacking trip
8:30AM PT Echo Lakes Trailhead to Lake Aloha
Distance: ~6 miles
Elevation Gain: ~600 ft.
Highlights: Take the Echo Lakes Trail north, with great views of Lower and Upper Echo Lakes.
After crossing into Desolation Wilderness, continue past Tamarack and Lake of the Woods to reach Lake Aloha.
Camp: Lake Aloha – a stunning granite basin dotted with islands.

Saturday, July 11, 2026

8:00AM PT Hike from Aloha Lake to Lake Schmidell
Distance: ~7 miles
Elevation Gain: ~800 ft. / Loss ~400 ft.
Route: Follow the trail toward Heather Lake, Susie Lake, and Grass Lake. Continue past Gilmore Lake and head toward Lake Schmidell.
Highlights: Views of Pyramid Peak and multiple alpine lakes.
Camp: Lake Schmidell – quieter than Aloha, great for stargazing.

Sunday, July 12, 2026

8:00AM PT Hike from Lake Schmidell to Camper Flat / Rockbound Valley
Distance: ~6 miles
Elevation Loss: ~1,200 ft.
Route: Descend into Rockbound Valley, following streams and forested terrain.
Highlights: Contrast between high granite basins and lush valleys.
Camp: Camper Flat near Rubicon River (ample water).

Monday, July 13, 2026

8:00AM PT

Hike from Camper Flat to Middle Velma Lake

Distance: ~7 miles

Elevation Gain: ~1,400 ft.

Route: Climb north and connect with the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT).

Highlights: Great views of the Crystal Range, plus scenic Velma Lakes basin.

Camp: Middle Velma Lake – good swimming, central location.

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

8:00AM PT

Hike from Middle Velma Lake to Dicks Lake

Distance: ~5 miles

Elevation Gain: ~1,200 ft.

Route: Head southeast on the PCT, ascending steadily.

Highlights: Climb toward Dicks Pass (spectacular views). Camp at Dicks Lake below the pass.

Camp: Dicks Lake – a classic high-country campsite.

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

8:00AM PT

Hike from Dicks Lake over Dicks Pass to Heather or Susie Lake

Distance: ~6 miles

Elevation Gain: ~1,000 ft. / Loss ~1,200 ft.

Route: Cross Dicks Pass (9,380 ft.), the high point of the loop, then descend toward Gilmore Lake and continue to Heather or Susie Lake.

Highlights: Panoramic views from Dicks Pass across Desolation Wilderness.

Camp: Heather Lake or Susie Lake – both scenic and well-situated for the last day's hike.

Thursday, July 16, 2026

8:00AM PT

Hike from Heather/Susie Lake back to Echo Lakes Trailhead

Distance: ~7 miles

Elevation Loss: ~1,000 ft.

Route: Descend past Lake of the Woods and reconnect with the Echo Lakes Trail to return to the trailhead.

Highlights: Retrace your route through the granite lake basin, ending with the long views down Echo Lakes.

Exit: Echo Lakes Trailhead

12:00PM PT

Depart Echo Lake Trailhead

12:30PM PT

Arrive at Fallen Leaf Campground

6:30PM PT

Cookout at the Campground

Friday, July 17, 2026

6:15AM PT

Depart Fallen Leaf Campground

8:30AM PT

Arrive at Tahoe Whitewater Tours, 13384 Lincoln Way Auburn, CA 94603

9:30AM PT

White water rafting on the Middle Fork American River: Tunnel Chute

4:45PM PT

Depart Tahoe Whitewater Tours

5:00PM PT

Pizza at Old Town Pizza, 510 High St. Auburn, CA, 95603 (530) 888-7600

8:30PM PT

Arrive at Fallen Leaf Campground

Saturday, July 18, 2026

8:30AM PT

Breakfast at IHOP, 3730 Lake Tahoe Blvd, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 (530) 544-4880

11:30AM PT

Arrive at airport and return vans.

2:35 PM PT

Flight leaves Reno Airport (Flight: ???).

10:35PM ET

Flight arrives at Detroit Airport.

Sunday, July 19, 2026

12:30 AM ET

Arrive at School in Pemberville.

Estimated Trip Expenses (Based on 12 Participants)

Air Fare	12 passengers @ \$600/person (round trip with 1 checked bag)	\$7200
Van Rental	Van Rentals (1-12 passenger, 1 minivan)	\$2139
Campsites	5 nights @ \$110/night	\$550
Gas	650 miles @ 12 MPG 54 gallons of gas @\$6.00/gallon	\$324
Gas	650 miles @ 25 MPG 26 gallons of gas @\$6.00/gallon	\$156
Food	\$16/person/day, 12 people x \$16 x 12 days	\$2304
White Water Rafting	Includes gratuity \$190/person x 12	\$2280
Miscellaneous	Maps, entrance fees, parking, etc.	\$600
Troop Backpacking Equipment Fee	(\$50 per person)	\$600
T-shirts	\$28/person x 12 people	<u>\$336</u>
Total Expenses		\$16489
 Cost per participant	 \$1375 (We currently plan to collect \$1400 per person)	