

Troop 344/9344 Black Hills Itinerary

July 12-24, 2025

Saturday, July 12, 2025

5:00AM ET Depart from Pemberville Elementary School parking lot.
6:00PM CT Arrive at Myre-Big Island State Park, 19499 780th Ave, Albert Lea, MN 56007 (507) 668-7060
(Make reservations 120 days in advance: 3/14/25. Check on 3/12/25. Stay at Big Island Campground.)

Sunday, July 13, 2025

8:00AM CT Depart Myre-Big Island State Park
6:00PM MT Arrive at Beaver Lake Campground, 12005 US-16, Custer, SD 57730 (605) 673-2464

Monday, July 14, 2025

8:00AM MT Depart for Devil's Tower National Monument, WY-110, Devils Tower, WY 82714 (307) 467-5283
10:00AM MT Arrive at Devil's Tower National Monument, WY
1:00PM MT Depart Devil's Tower National Monument, WY
3:00PM MT Arrive at Crazy Horse Memorial, Crazy Horse, SD 57730 (605) 673-4681
5:00PM MT Depart Crazy Horse Memorial
5:30PM MT Arrive at Beaver Lake Campground

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

8:00AM MT Dayhike to Little Devil's Tower, Cathedral Spires, Sylvan Lake Loop, and Sunday Gulch Trail. 7.8 miles
2:00PM MT Swimming at Sylvan Lake.
3:30PM MT Return to Beaver Lake Campground
4:00PM MT Leaders stage van at Spring Lake Trailhead. (27.3 miles/36 minutes one way)

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

7:30AM MT Ferry backpackers to Sylvan Lake Trailhead from Beaver Lake Campground (2 trips, 10.4 miles/20 minutes one way)
8:00AM MT Hike from Sylvan Lake Trailhead to Willow Creek Loop. Camp about 1/2 way on the loop. 6.0 miles

Thursday, July 17, 2025

8:00AM MT Hike from Willow Creek Loop to Grizzly Creek Trail. Camp where the creek meets the trail. 7.2 miles

Friday, July 18, 2025

8:00AM MT Hike from Grizzly Creek to Centennial Trail and camp where Grizzly Bear Creek joins the trail. 6.6 miles

Saturday, July 19, 2025

8:00AM MT Hike from Grizzly Bear Creek on the Centennial Trail to Mt. Rushmore. Tour. 0.8 miles
9:00AM MT Tour Mt. Rushmore.
12:00PM MT Depart Mt. Rushmore and hike to Pine Creek on the Centennial Trail. 4.2 miles

Sunday, July 20, 2025

7:30AM MT Hike from Pine Creek to Battle Creek. 2.2 miles
No water for 9.6 miles after this point.

Monday, July 21, 2025

7:30AM MT Hike from Battle Creek to Calumet/Flume Trailhead on Sheridan Lake. 9.6 miles

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

8:00AM MT Hike from Sheridan Lake to Spring Lake Trailhead and board vans. 2.1 miles
11:00AM MT Arrive at Beaver Lake Campground
6:00PM MT Dining at Pizza Mill 904 Mt Rushmore Rd., Custer, SD 57730 (605) 673-3306

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

7:00AM MT Depart Beaver Lake Campground
6:00PM CT Arrive at Motel 6, 2019 E Main St, Albert Lea, MN 56007 (507) 377-0591

Thursday, July 24, 2025

6:00AM CT Depart Motel 6, Albert Lea, MN
7:00PM ET Arrive at Pemberville.

Notes:

1. This is a much drier area than we have hiked in the past. Backcountry campsite locations are dictated where water is available. This is why some days have substantially different miles hiked than other days.
2. Dayhiking Mileage ~8 miles. Backpacking mileage ~39 miles. Total Mileage ~47 miles.

Estimated Trip Expenses

Van Rental	Van Rentals (1 minivan)	\$1073
Trailer Rental	U-Haul	\$210
Gas	3000 miles/15 MPG = 200 gallons gas x \$4.00/gallon x 2 vehicles	\$1600
Camping	Myre-Big Island State Park	\$48
Camping	Beaver Lake Campground	\$440
Food	\$12/person/day x 8 people x 12 days	\$1152
Motel	1 night x 5 rooms x \$75	\$320
Miscellaneous	Maps, equipment, parking, tolls, etc.	\$400
Troop Backpacking Equipment Replacement Fee	(\$50 per person)	\$400
T-shirts	\$25/person x 8 people	<u>\$200</u>
	Total Expenses	\$5843
Subtotal cost per participant	(based on 8 participants)	\$730

1. The trip expenses are estimated and are to be used for planning purposes only. We will have a more accurate cost per participant when reservations have been completed and the trip roster is known.
2. Trip costs are based on the use of a personal truck being donated to the troop for transporting Scouts, equipment, luggage, and towing a U-Haul trailer. Gas for the truck will be provided by the troop.
3. We currently are planning on collecting \$750 per participant to make sure all expenses are covered.
4. A deposit of \$150 will need to be made by January 14, 2025. Due to limitations on vehicle space and backcountry limits on the number of hikers, we can accommodate up to 20 people. Regulations in this area allow our entire group to hike and camp together. Reservations are first come first serve and will be cut off when we reach 20 participants.
5. Should an individual that makes a deposit and later decides not to go, to help maintain costs for everyone, the \$150 deposit is nonrefundable unless a replacement can be found for the withdrawing individual. No one likes to have their fees increased at a later date.
6. Second payment of \$300 will be due by March 11, 2025.
7. Final payment of \$280 will be due by May 13, 2025. The last payment amount may be adjusted once the final costs of the trip and the total number of participants are known.