



CHAPMAN LANDSCAPING SERVICE

ROBERT W. "BOB" CHAPMAN

March 2, 1980

Dear Scout Executive:

For the past two years the American Hiking Society has been planning a cross-country hike to demonstrate to the public the increasing size of the hiking constituency in America and the rapidly decreasing number of miles of hiking trails. We also seek to make our legislative bodies across the country aware of this imbalance so that current trails are protected and preserved and new trails are designated and built.

The Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the Department of the Interior is co-sponsoring the cross-country trek, dubbed "HikaNation," which is expected to last 14 months and cover 4500 miles. National Backpacking magazines, Sunset (April '80) and other publications, local and national hiking and backpacking clubs are supporting and giving wide coverage to the trek.

The first two days are affording a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hike through San Francisco from the Polo Grounds, "camp" overnight in a huge covered parking lot and then walk across the Bay Bridge. This walk across the bridge will be the first, last, and probably only time since October 1936, when the bridge was completed, that people can walk across the 7-mile span.

We invite Scouts and Explorers to participate in the HikaNation's first two days by serving as trail monitors and by hiking the first two days with the thousands of others as we go through San Francisco and across the Bay Bridge.

I've enclosed a fact sheet for your use. We would be pleased if you would include this information in your Council Bulletins, District notes, at Roundtables and Cabinet Meetings, Commissioners, Cub and Scout Committee meetings, etc.

Having been a Scout Professional for 15½ years (218 NTS) and a charter member of the American Hiking Society, I felt this endeavor would afford Scouts and Explorers an opportunity to provide a useful, meaningful service and give high visibility to the Boy Scouts of America as we anticipate having between 50,000-85,000 people crossing the Bay Bridge.

Sincerely yours,

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HONEST • DEPENDABLE • EXPERIENCED

HIKANATION OPENING DAYS FACT SHEET FOR SCOUT & EXPLORER UNITS

WHAT IT IS

"HIKANATION" is cross the country trek from San Francisco to Washington, D. C. It is co-sponsored by the American Hiking Society and the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Department of the Interior.

HIKANATION PURPOSE

To acquaint the public and elected officials to the size of the hiking public and to the necessity of maintaining existing trails and building new ones.

WHEN

HIKANATION kicks off on Saturday, April 12, at 10:00 a.m. at the Polo Grounds in Golden Gate Park. After the opening ceremonies, hikers go through San Francisco and can stay overnight in a fenced, security patrolled, covered parking lot under the Fremont Street ramp. At 6:00 a.m. Sunday, April 13, the Bay Bridge, for the first time since it opened in 1936, will be crossed on foot.

WHO

Any Scout and Explorer unit can participate in either of the two opening days or can hike with the trekkers as they cross California.

SERVICE

Scouts and Explorers are needed to serve as trail monitors on these two opening days to keep people on the right track, in the right lanes on the Bay Bridge, and to assist in keeping the route clean. Serving as official monitors will still allow participating in the HikaNation as we go through San Francisco and over the Bridge.

COST

A registration fee of \$3.00 per person for the two days will be collected. Patches, certificates and other goodies will be given. Register and pay fees at the Polo Grounds at the Monitors booth.

BRING

Typical overnight gear (except tents as they cannot or do not need to be pitched on the covered macadam parking lot), trail lunches, canteen of water, supper that can be prepared on

backpacking stoves, and a quick-fix cold breakfast for Sunday morning so that you can go on the Bridge at 6:00 a.m. Catering trucks will also be on hand.

GETTING BACK

Hikers wishing to go back to San Francisco after crossing the Bridge on Sunday may catch special transit buses or take BART. BART stations are found near the East exit of the Bridge. (Why not park Saturday morning in East Bay and take transit to Golden Gate Park?)