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Crystal Lake

Date: October 30 2012

Leader: Sally Spotts

DIRECTIONS: From Interstate 210 in Azusa, take Azusa Ave/Hwy SR-39 north.

Continue up Hwy 39 for 23 miles (eek) to the signed entrance to the Crystal Lake Recreation Area.

Turn right and drive 2 miles to the visitor ctr/snackshop.

PARKING. Continue left of the visitor center and in another ½ mile, you will reach a junction of 5 roads (eek) and a locked gate in front of you. Park in the large lot on the right. The marked trailhead for Windy Gap Trail is on your left (north) across from the parking area. An Adventure Pass is required.

NOTE: THE GATE AFTER THE VISITOR CENTER MAY BE LOCKED, if so, park off to the side of the visitor center, not in front, and walk extra ½ mile to the trailhead.

Hike Description. I will hand out trail descriptions which will include...

6.0 miles RT, 1756' gain, up Windy Gap trail to junction with Pacific Crest Trail and return.

8.7 miles RT up Windy Gap Trail to Big Cienega looping back to Windy Gap Trail.

Other possibilities are Mt. Islip, Mt Hawkins Fire Road, Little Jimmy Trail Camp, east on the PCT, etc.

Also there are several shorter trails near the Visitor Center, including one to the amphitheater, as well as the Lake Trail to Crystal Lake and another to Deer Flats.

Note: Mileage mentioned above includes extra ½ mile to parking if gate is closed.

Windy Gap Trail is one of the oldest footpaths in the San Gabriels. Mountains form a giant horseshoe: Islip Ridge to west, Hawkins Ridge to the east and to the north watersheds flow to the Mojave to the north and the LA basin to the south.

On Line Info:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crystal_Lake_Recreation_Area#Hiking_and_nature_trails