

HIKE of the MONTH



Hollenbeck Canyon—*Moderate/Challenging* ■ ■

Recommended Level: Juniors-Adults (Daisies and Brownies would enjoy the creek and canyon portions of this loop hike.)

Dates: Feb.-March

Cost: Free (self-guided, family hike)

Please note that this is a self-guided, family hike (not a troop event.) Please wear masks on the trail if you encounter other people, and follow proper COVID-19 protocols.

Length: 6 miles (loop)

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Elevation Gain/Loss:

+900' -993'

Driving directions: Highway 94, east of Jamul: Turn north onto Honey Springs Road, and parking is almost immediately on your left.

Parking: Dirt lot on Honey Springs Road. Pit toilets and trailhead are at the southwest end of the lot.

General Route:

This is a lollipop loop: hike straight in, then choose if you want to take the loop clockwise or counter clockwise. For an easy hike, simply walk clockwise up the creek until you're ready to turn around.

Bring: [10 +2 Essentials](#) (link to our WHC handbook)

See map and specifics on reverse



HIKING LEVELS

■ Easy (all levels of hikers) ■ Moderate (intermediate) ■ Strenuous (experienced only)

Map: <https://caltopo.com/m/D9CR> At the top of the page, click on “Print,” then “Print to a PDF.” You can choose to print two vertical maps, or print horizontally..

Specifics: Turn by turn

- Hike west from the trailhead and at .3 miles, reach a junction that heads straight down to the creek. If it's too wet/sloppy, continue along the main trail into the oaks and cross the creek at mile .5.
- Turn left to enjoy the quiet back canyons of this hike and an easier climb up the hill. There are a few jeep roads and use trails that can be confusing, but simply head west to bend around the first ridge, and stay on the main trail to pass between two hills at mile 1.5.
- At mile 2.1, you'll reach a junction, turn right to dogleg north into the grasslands and oak groves, passing an old corral at mile 2.3.
- At mile 3.3, turn right to follow the dirt road up the hill. At the top of the hill, rest on the bench and enjoy the views. Continue uphill along the same dirt road to mile 3.8.
- Leave the dirt road now, and head down the steep hill. At the bottom of the hill, mile 4, (and before you cross the creek) turn right to continue your loop down the canyon. Depending on recent rains, you may or may not cross the creek (or sloppy mud) several times between mile 5.5 and 5.7.
- At mile 5.7 you'll close the loop, cross the creek again, and head back to the parking lot.

Key Risks:

- Heat
- Mountain bikes
- Poison oak, particularly flourishing near the creek
- Rattlesnakes
- Creek crossings after heavy rains

Be safe! Have fun! Share your pictures!

- Send us a picture: [GSSD Backpacking](#)
- Post a picture on the [GSSD Trail Buddies Facebook Page](#) (completion of Wilderness Hiking is a requirement to join this private group. We encourage you to join GSSD Trail Buddies to stay connected to the GSSD hiking and backpacking program, and learn about upcoming hikes, classes, and trips.)

