

Favorite Camping Places The Fehr Lake Trail

The Fehr Lake Trail is a wonderful place to take scouts. First of all, the proper pronunciation is FEAR Lake. The only place more exciting for scouts to hike is Death Hollow. The Fehr Lake Trail is the Unitas at its best. You drive off the main highway, State Road 150 (the Kamas Mirror Lake highway) 25 yards and you are at the trail head. The initial trail is well marked. The trail leads to four different lakes which gives you a lot of options. It is a fun place for a day hike as well.

From the trailhead a hike of a quarter mile (two blocks in Boy Scout language) takes you to Fehr Lake. It is a shallow, pretty lake. I have never seen fish jump there but there may be some. Most campers pass Fehr lake and continue to Marshall, Hoover, or Shepard Lakes. Fehr Lake is close to the highway and about the same elevation so vehicle noise will interrupt the solitude which accompanies most Boy Scout camps. There are meadows on the south side of the lake if you want to camp there and still be the required 200 feet from the lake.

The color topo map of the trail on the District website is better than the black and white printed version because it clearly shows where the trail goes. After leaving the Fehr Lake meadows the trail drops steeply down the hill making an easy hike in but a more strenuous hike out. Consult the color map before you go. At the bottom of the hill the trail comes to Shepard Lake and it is difficult to decide which direction to proceed. There is a fisherman's trail to the right around Shepard Lake but it peters out into the dead fall. The actual hiking trail bears left around the lake in a clockwise fashion. Soon after Shepard Lake Hoover Lake is on the left. From there you can proceed cross country to Marshall Lake.

Be very careful with the Scouts and these trails. The color topo map shows the old logging roads east of the lakes. If the scouts mistake these roads for the trail you will fully understand the meaning of "herding cats." It is best to practice good hiking discipline and keep everyone in sight all the time after you have explained the potential perils to the scouts.

Because they are close to the road these lakes are popular. I have never been to them when mine was the only party there. I have caught really nice fish in Marshall Lake but never with the scouts. There is vehicle access to the south side of Marshall Lake but only if you are an experienced four wheel enthusiast.

