



**Was your route completed as planned? If there were any changes, why?**

Yes, we made it from the Big Trees to the Big Mountains. We made some changes along the way in places we camped. The miles were slow because we had to take many pictures, stop and smell the flowers, get in the waterfalls, pools and lakes. Then we also took a break every hour.

**What were you inspired by?**

*First* - It would be God's love for us! This place is like a "Garden of Eden" that the creator planted for everybody to enjoy. How can you describe a Redwood tree? How can you describe a forest of them? Can you really capture one in a picture? You would miss the true beauty of it! The size, the smell, and the feel of it. A picture would be putting it in a box! The views from the peaks and mountains are amazing and they are all the way around you! You would have to get out and experience the beauty of this place to know what it's really like.

*Second* - The SNHA Hike Big program inspired me to share my story. So for the first time I kept a journal of the biggest hike of my life. Thank you SNHA and especially you Sarah for your quick responses to my emails and questions, you are very encouraging!

**Any advice for other backpackers?**

Yes! Slow down and take a break often, you will see more things! Have a backup plan, we had a water filter break and a water bladder get a hole in it. Lighter is better but in the backcountry you must be prepared.

**What was the most useful product from SNHA?**

At home the *green bags* are used more than anything. On the trail the *field hat* was used everyday. They even put a little insulation under the top of it (very good idea) I often dipped it into a stream to keep cool during the hotter sections of the trail.

**Any additional comments about your experience with the Hike Big program or the Sequoia Natural History Association?**

First I would like to say wado! (wado is thank you in Cherokee) The Hike Big program is designed to get people out and experience the beauty of this great land. I would like to thank all of our warriors who shed their blood and gave their lives so we can have the freedom to explore this great land. I also honor the keepers of this land who preserve the natural history of this place so every generation and every race of people can see the natural beauty of this great land. Wado!!!