

**SUMMIT LAKE**  
**THURSDAY, Oct 9, 2025**  
**2 Pace Hike – Moderate Pace – Geology Version**

**DIFFICULTY:** This will be a moderate hike on an in and out trail at 7000 feet elevation.

**PACE:** Moderate, with frequent stops to observe the geological formations and history

**HIKE DISTANCE:** 6 miles about 550 feet elevation gain.

**GENERAL LOCATION:** Soda Springs - Hwy 80 near Boreal ski resort.

**DESCRIPTION:** We're fortunate to have geologist, Mark Smelser join us on this hike. We will meander through the heart of Summit Lake where we'll encounter granite rock (pluton) that is 117 million years old and is peppered with xenoliths, (a rock fragment that becomes enveloped in a larger rock). The granite was scoured and polished during the Tioga Glaciation about 20,000 years ago and is part of the much larger Sierra batholith, (an irregularly shaped body of igneous rock that forms deep within the earth's crust). The trail also crosses the Tahoe-Sierra Frontal fault zone that is considered an active Fault which exhibits vertical displacement. We'll hike in wooded areas, cross a lush meadow and arrive at a beautiful Summit Lake, where we'll have our lunch/snack and then return on the same trail.

**RISKS:** Large granite steps with loose rock

**TRAVEL TIME / DISTANCE:** One hour and 15 minutes; 75 miles. A donation of \$10 is suggested. Directions will be provided for drivers.

**HIKE LEADER :** Marilyn McCullough    **SWEEP:** Tess Devenish

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

**FACILITIES:** Pit toilets at the trailhead.

**PREPARATION FOR HIKE:**

1. Bring a copy of your ID (driver's license), health card, and an emergency contact phone number with you when you hike.
2. If you have any health issues, please consider your condition before hiking.
3. Always bring 2 pairs of shoes, along with a plastic bag to store your muddy/dusty boots after the hike.
4. Bring lunch/snack, water, and hiking boots. Trekking poles are recommended.

**QUESTIONS:** Call Marilyn McCullough – 916-899-3432

**MEETING TIME:** 8:00 a.m. row 14 Orchard Creek. **LEAVE TIME** 8:15 a.m.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take HWY 80 east towards Truckee. Exit #176, Castle Peak/Boreal. Turn right & drive a short distance to stop sign, turn left and drive appx. ½ mile to the parking lot and trail head at the end of the road. Pit restrooms are located in the parking lot.

A donation of \$10 is suggested