

# Fordyce Falls

Thursday, June 11, 2026

**RSVP ONLY – Email [joanrubino@gmail.com](mailto:joanrubino@gmail.com)**

**GENERAL LOCATION:** Emigrant Gap

**DIFFICULTY (Rating):** Strenuous

**HIKE DISTANCE:** 9.5 miles, Out and Back

**ELEVATION/GAIN:** Start / Highest /Gain: 5300' / highest 5400' / **Gain 1200'**

**PACE:** Fast (Fewer stops, faster pace)

**TRAIL CONDITIONS:** Stream crossings with mud. Rock hopping where water crosses the trail. (Poles recommended for this hike). Fairly robust creek crossing with a jump to the uphill trail. Plan for hot, sunny conditions for most of the trail – bring plenty of water, hat, sunscreen. As this is one of the first hikes of the season at elevation, please consider that we will have about 1200' of elevation gain at a fast pace around the 5300' elevation level.

**DESCRIPTION:** The first part of the hike is through trees, ferns and beautiful wildflowers. We should see lupine, Indian Paint Brush, Snowflowers, and Harlequin Lotus. Come out of the trees at the Pioneer trail and stop for photos at the Lake Spaulding overlook. Continue hiking over sunny, beautiful dirt trails and granite surfaces. Lunch at Fordyce Falls on granite rocks with beautiful views of rushing Fordyce Creek. Hike back along the same trail.

**FACILITIES:** Two pit toilets at Sierra Discovery Trail parking lot – 3 miles before the trailhead.

**DRIVE TIME/MILES:** Approximately 75 minute drive and 65 miles.

**DONATION:** A donation of \$12 is suggested for riders.

**LEADER/SWEEP:** Joan Rubino [joanrubino@gmail.com](mailto:joanrubino@gmail.com)/ Debbie Knowles

**MEET/LEAVE TIME:** Meet at 6:30 am / Leave Time 6:45 am

## PREPARATION FOR HIKE:

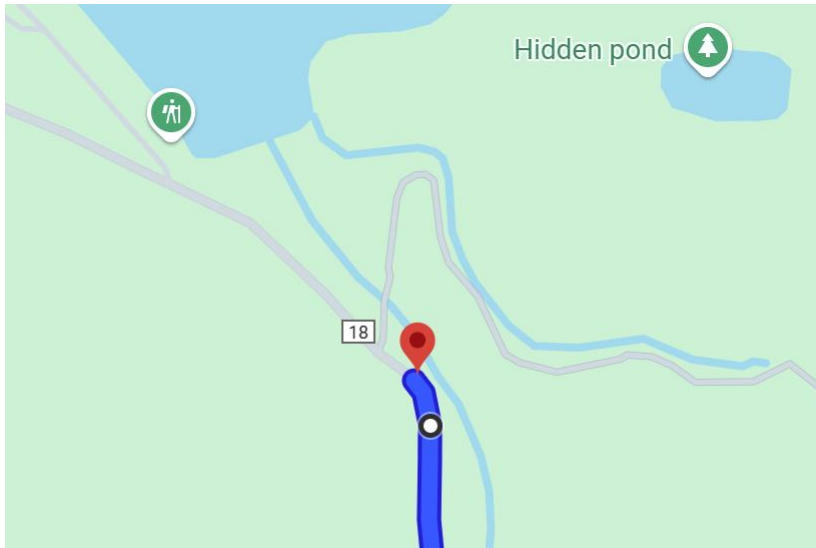
- Being prepared physically as well as having the right equipment makes for a better experience, not only for you, but for your fellow hikers.
- **If you have any health issues, please consider your condition before hiking at high altitude or at a fast pace.**

## What to Bring:

- **PLENTY OF WATER!** Recommend 50 oz. /1.5 liters minimum for 5-mile hike – more if longer. Electrolytes suggested. Higher altitudes are dehydrating even when cool.
- Hiking boots/shoes, hat, sun protection, insect repellent, small first aid kit. Wind/rain jacket always advisable in the mountains. Trekking poles recommended.
- ID (driver's license), health insurance card, emergency contact / phone number.
- Extra pair of shoes to change into after hike and a plastic bag for muddy/dusty hiking boots to keep your driver's car clean.

**Hike Route:** <https://www.alltrails.com/explore/recording/spaulding-lake-trail-to-fordyce-falls-d4a973e>

**Driving Directions:** Trailhead on Bowman Lake road approximately a quarter mile before the Spaulding Lake trailhead and Fuller Lake. Roadside parking on gravel/dirt. Drive to trailhead is paved.



**Leader: Joan Rubino**  
**Driver Donation: \$12**