

18:33:38 From Devin Wakefield : Thanks for teaching us, Kathleen!

18:36:41 From Devin Wakefield : How come you like solo long distance instead of with a group? Does the group get too stinky? (just curious)

Kathleen: Mainly freedom. I love the freedom of being able to go where I want, when I want without having to consult a whole group. I enjoy group trips as well, but solo backpacking is really my favorite.

18:51:09 From Devin Wakefield : Maybe this will get answered later, but how do you handle getting the backcountry permits? I thought some places along the PCT are super challenging to get permits for, so I wonder if there's a way to do it that's not dependent on lotteries etc.

18:58:34 From tammy barnhart : do you have a membership for this app?

Kathleen: The FarOut Guide app is a paid resource. You can either purchase each guide separately or buy a FarOut Guide membership. You'll need to visit their website for details.

19:32:24 From tammy barnhart : what do you hike in as far as shoes?

Kathleen: I've been trying at the Altar Lone Peaks this year so far and I really love them. They're comfortable, have a wide toe box, are lightweight and dry quickly.

19:35:38 From tammy barnhart : yes heard they are great

19:35:51 From tammy barnhart : agree

19:37:01 From tammy barnhart : do you use a bladder for water

Kathleen: No, I've moved over to the Smart Water bottle system so that I carry less water when out on trail. I will "camel" up at a water source, but then always have a liter of water in a collapsible water bottle on my shoulder to get me to the next water source.

19:37:49 From Devin Wakefield : Is there a backpack trip you would suggest for folks who haven't done longer distance backpack trips yet? Like a "beginner" type long-distance hike, I guess.

Kathleen: I'd recommend checking out a local trail guidebook from The Mountaineers for an area you want to explore. Here in Washington, there are lots of options for a beginner backpacking section hike along the PCT. For Example: Coming out of Snoqualmie Pass to Spectacle Lake is a great option.

19:41:54 From Devin Wakefield : Thank you so much!!

19:42:01 From Jan Ripplinger (she/her) : Thank you - great info!

19:42:02 From Diane L : Thank you!

19:42:04 From Julia (she/they) : Thank you for the excellent info!