



## WELCOME TO THE TRAIL OF 100 GIANTS

[www.gsnma.org](http://www.gsnma.org)

### **PLEASE DON'T SMOKE ON THE TRAIL. ONE CARELESS ASH COULD DESTROY THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE !**

1. This **Giant Sequoia (Sequoiadendron Giganteum)** is 18.26 feet in diameter, 245 feet tall and about 1,500 years old. The monument proclamation was signed here on April 15, 2000 by former president Bill Clinton. The **Giant Sequoia** got its name from a Cherokee Indian who never saw one of these magnificent trees. The word **sequoia** is the only word that contains all five vowels. (**a-e-l-o-u**)
2. On your right is a **Sugar Pine**. Note the 5 short needles in a cluster or follicle and that the bark has a reddish color. The cones from this tree can be 18-24 in. long. Look west to the open slope. The US Forest Service had volunteers from Wild Places plant seedlings from seeds produced here to grow trees for future generations. (An easy way to tell a sugar pine from a ponderosa pine is -remember the word **sugar** has 5 letters (5 needles) ends in "r" for reddish bark.
3. Notice the bark of the Giant Sequoia it is reddish in color, fibrous or stringy and spongy and soft to the touch. Look up at the top of the tree and see where it was broken off. Now look to your left and see where part of the tree impaled itself into the earth.
4. On the right is a 182 foot tall and 6 1/2 foot in diameter **Ponderosa Pine**. It is easily 300-400 years old. The **Ponderosa Pine** has 3 needles in a follicle; the bark is yellowish in color & looks like giant puzzle pieces. The cones have "prickly" tips on the outer edge and about 6-8 in. tall. To your left is the **Goose Pen**. Actually it is 3 giant sequoia's that have grown together. They are 228 feet tall and 15.9 feet in diameter. Go ahead and walk through the trees. In the meadow to the east the plant with the large leaves is skunk cabbage or corn lily. It is poisonous. Look across the meadow to a beautiful giant sequoia that is 225 feet tall and 19.25 feet in diameter.
5. The trail has a series of 5 switchbacks. Please stray on the trail. Cutting across the trail will cause undercutting of the path which is costly to repair. Notice the **White Fir** covered with bright green **wolf lichen**. Most people think it is moss. It isn't. Moss requires moist wet conditions to grow. Wolf Lichen gets nourishment from the air. It is very important as it cleans the air of carbon dioxide. The Indians used lichen as a dye as well as a poison for the tips of their arrows when hunting.
6. Here is a young **Giant Sequoia** about 50-75 years old. Look at the prickly needles. Notice how much the bark of this young sequoia resembles an **Incense Cedar**. As the tree ages the bark will become thicker and sponger. Look at the stumps next to the **Sequoia**. When these trees were cut down the Sequoia began to thrive & grow. This is a good example of how important thinning and opening the forest canopy is to the health of the forest.
7. Chinquapin bush. It produces a very prickly bur with a tasty nut inside. Wildlife love the nut.
8. As you face the tree you see 2 trees. On the left is an **Incense Cedar** and a **Giant Sequoia** on the right. This is called a competition-symbiotic relationship. Meaning that neither species benefits from the relationship. In time the **Giant Sequoia** will totally envelop the cedar. Will the cedar survive? Time will tell.
9. Notice how fire has scared the trees and how they have reacted. Look skyward and you will see that these magnificent giants are leaning. How long will they remain standing? Why are they leaning? Perhaps they are being undercut by the stream. What do you think?
10. Three Giant Sequoia's trunks have grown together. In the back are two more. In time they will encircle the fir trees in the middle & join trunks making a circle of five friends. Some school children say the trunks of the trees looks like a crown while others say they look like guards or sentinels. Interesting idea.
11. This is the root of a fallen **Giant Sequoia**. The roots only grow 6 feet down into the earth. Because of the shallow root system they are easily blown over by high winds. Note the fir tree growing through the sequoia's roots. Uphill and to the left of the root is a stately **Sugar Pine**.
12. Take a rest here and look up the hill at the beautiful sequoia just above the granite rocks.
13. A magnificent **Sequoia** with a beautiful **Fir** standing in front. Fir's are used as your Christmas Tree. Smell the needles & remember past Christmas's.
14. This is a **Giant Sequoia's and its root system** that fell in the late 1850-60's. How beautiful. Great photo opp. Notice it hasn't decayed in all these years.
15. **Two Giant Sequoia's** have grown together forming what looks like two elephants feet. Have you wondered how many stories these trees could tell us if they could talk? What happened? Who said what? Did you see? **Stop ! Listen! and Breathe in** the beautiful sounds, smells and silence of this forest.
16. Here is a good example of mounding or "duff" at the base of the tree. The tree sends up rootlets to this area for nutrients, water & air.
17. Stop & walk around this great tree. Notice the "bench" that has been formed on the east side. It was probably caused by an upper branch falling and striking the base of the tree many years ago. The tree responded by forming "scar tissue" with the bark creating a bench over time.
18. Dedication plaque. This trail was the brain child of forest service employees Jerry Eoff and Art Cowley. They spent numerous hours making sure this trail become a reality. **Thank you Jerry , Art , Dave & Carol Haffner, Mary Hart, Alan Landon, Bruce Boaz, John Pires, Three Forest Interpretive Assoc., Kern Valley Wildlife Assoc. & all of the Tulare volunteers** for your foresight, hard work and dedication. You have built a legacy for all future generations to enjoy.
19. A lush meadow full of skunk cabbage. The large leafed plant is poisonous to some animals and insects. Do not eat just look.
20. This is a great place to see all the different types of conifers. Ponderosa Pine, Incense Cedar, Sugar Pine, Giant Sequoia.

(Capitalizations and underling of words has been used for emphasizing purposes only and may not be considered grammatically correct.)

**THANK YOU FOR VISITING US TODAY. JOIN THE GIANT SEQUOIA MONUMENT ASSOCIATION. GO ONLINE TO WWW.gsnma.org**