### Dates: March 19 – 29, 2020
### Departure Time: Thursday, March 19 at 12:00pm
### Location: Big Bend National Park, TX
### Price: $495 student members / $575 non-members
### Registration Deadline: March 9, 2020
### Pre-trip Meeting: March 10, 2020 at 7:30pm at the Outdoor Adventure Center

#### Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande
This is one of the best river trips in Texas in terms of isolation, scenery, and adventure. It may be possible to spend the entire week in the canyons without seeing another person other than those in our own group. This trip will cover 83 miles of the Rio Grande flowing through rugged desert canyons of southwest Texas. We will encounter many small rapids and depending on the water level, a few major rapids, a strenuous portage or two, and a good deal of flat water.

#### Personal Preparation
UNL Outdoor Adventures trips are designed for both beginners as well as people that may be more than experienced. However, we do want our participants to realize that even though that a beginner could go on this trip, we advise people to take their physical condition seriously. Canoeing and day hiking may not seem to be a physical activity but in order to get the most enjoyment out of the trip being physically fit is a crucial part of this experience.

#### Transportation
All transportation is included in the price of the trip. University vehicles will be used as transportation to and from Big Bend National Park, Texas. We will depart from UNL Outdoor Adventures.

#### Weather
The average lows for the Big Bend area during this time are in the low 40s and highs are in the 70s. Be prepared for a range of conditions including cold rain, and wind. During the day, weather is generally sunny and comfortable. Mornings and evening could be cool to cold. Be sure to consult the packing list to make sure you have the proper layers for this trip.

#### Campsites
This trip will require two days of driving to and from the activity site. We will be staying at the Texas Tech University Recreation Center during our drive. Otherwise we will be camping for the entirety of this trip. During the canoeing portion of this trip, we will be camping at remote sites located along the riverbanks of the Rio Grande.

#### Food & Group Cooking
As with all aspects of this expedition, cooking will be a group effort. Everyone will be responsible for helping with the group meals and cleaning up after each meal. All canoeing meals will be provided by Outdoor Adventures. You will just need to cover the meals on the way to and from Big Bend National Park. Please see the trip itinerary for specific meals that are not provided by Outdoor Adventures. Please inform the trip leaders of any dietary concerns or needs during the pre-trip meeting.

#### Minimum Impact Living
Going into areas such as Big Bend is like visiting a museum. You obviously do not want to leave your mark on an art treasure in a museum. If everyone left a mark going through the museum, it would be soon destroyed. The same goes for wilderness areas. If we all leave one little mark on the landscape, the wilderness would soon be despoiled. In order to leave no trace,
we will be practicing minimum impact principles. This includes packing out all of our waste, traveling and camping on durable surfaces, taking nothing but pictures, and being respectful of other visitors and wildlife.

**Expedition Behavior**

Expedition behavior means taking care of yourself and other group members. It means being the first one to help put up the tent or make hot drinks in the morning. It means staying hydrated, not unnecessarily endangering yourself, and communicating concerns to trip leaders. Characteristics such as respectfulness, flexibility, tolerance of others, courtesy, direct communication, self-awareness, and teamwork become critical when traveling in small groups in remote areas. Proper expedition behavior can be the difference between an average experience and a great one!

**Smoking & Alcohol**

In the spirit of expedition behavior, please do not bring alcohol or illegal substances or items on the trip. Cigarettes are acceptable at established areas but are not allowed to be used in vehicles. We would encourage you not to smoke on this trip and to respect other participants if choosing to smoke.

**What is provided by Outdoor Adventures?**

All transportation, meals while at the activity site, all activity-related gear and camping equipment, camping fees, leadership, and instruction are provided by Outdoor Adventures. The trip cost does not include personal clothing and equipment, or meals outside of the activity site. Be sure to bring cash and a debit/credit card for meals and souvenirs.

**International Border**

The Rio Grande River serves as an international border between Mexico and the United States. We will not be entering Mexico, but all trip participants should bring a photo ID. If you are not a US citizen, please bring a passport and any visa (student F-1 visa) and related paperwork.

**More Information...**

Big Bend National Park: www.nps.gov/bibe

**Contact Us**

**UNL Outdoor Adventures**

402.472.4777
http://crec.unl.edu/outdoor

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## Personal Gear Checklist

### Canoeing and Camping Clothes
- River Sandals
- Swim shorts
- Synthetic t-shirt
- Long sleeve sun shirt
- Synthetic mid-weight socks (2 pair)
- Synthetic long underwear (top and bottoms)
- Synthetic underwear
- Light weight camp/hiking pants
- Rain pants
- Rain jacket
- Fleece insulating jacket
- Lightweight gloves
- Warm stocking hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat
- Bandanna
- Hiking shoes

### Backcountry Personal Items
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm with sunscreen
- Toiletries (toothbrush/paste)
- Prescription glasses, contacts, and case
- Personal first aid kit/medications/prescriptions
- Pocket knife
- Camera
- Journal, pencil, or pen
- Tampons, pads, towelettes
- Hand sanitizer
- Hot drink mug
- Water bottles (2 liters)
- Headlamp (available from OA)
- Day Pack

### Front Country Travel Bag
- Small sport/gym bag or backpack
- Casual clothes for car ride and being in town
- Toiletries/Towel
- Money/Credit Card

### Gear Provided by Outdoor Adventures
- Canoe
- Personal Floatation Device
- River Rescue Kit
- Tent
- Sleeping Bag (20 degree)
- Sleeping Pad
- Dry Bags
- Camping Stove
- Cook-set
- Food bowl and spoon
- River Toilet
- All other Group Related Gear

****Note****
Space in the vehicle will be limited. Please pack only what you need in the backpack provided and a small travel bag.
**Daily Itinerary**

**Friday March 19th, 2020**
- 11:30 am: Arrive at Outdoor Adventures and depart by 12:00pm
- Dinner: On the Road*** (Please bring a box meal)
- Camping: Wichita Falls, TX

**Saturday March 20th, 2020**
- Breakfast: Wichita Falls, TX***
- Morning: Drive
- Lunch: On the Road***
- Late Afternoon: Arrive at La Linda, Set-up camp
- Dinner: At our campsite
- Camping: La Linda, TX

**Sunday March 21st, 2020**
- Breakfast: Breakfast at La Linda campsite
- Morning: River School, Load the canoes and start our journey downstream
- Lunch: On the River
- Afternoon: Paddle to our first Campsite
- Dinner: At our campsite/followed by hiking & camp games

**Monday March 22nd - Friday 27th, 2020**
Each day will consist a few hours of paddling, setting up camp, day hiking, cooking and eating delicious camp meals, relaxing, and enjoying the scenery.

**Saturday March 28th, 2020**
- Breakfast: At our last campsite
- Morning: Paddle to the take-out
- Lunch: At the take-out
- Afternoon: Drive to Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX
- Dinner: Great food in Lubbock***
- Camping: Texas Tech University

**Sunday March 29th, 2020**
- 5:30a: Depart Lubbock, TX
- Lunch/Dinner: On the Road***
- Evening: Arrival at Outdoor Adventures in Lincoln, NE

*** Designates meal is not provided by Outdoor Adventures

**Note:** This itinerary is tentative and subject to change

**Suggested Pre-Trip Reading List**
- *The Tecate Journals – Seventy Days on the Rio Grande*, by Keith Bowden