

UNOUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Ozark Mountains Rock Climbing

Dates: March 16th - 20th, 2025

Pre-Trip Meeting: March 11th from 6:00-8:00pm



DISCLAIMER: *Please note that specific details about this trip are subject to change. This packet provides a broad overview of what you can expect, but specific locations, timelines, and details may shift. Any changes will be communicated at the required pre-trip meetings.*

Ozark Mountains in Arkansas:

Horseshoe Canyon Ranch - The sandstone & limestone cliffs at Horseshoe Canyon Ranch are renowned for their unique and aesthetic features. Climbers are treated to a mosaic of vibrant colors and interesting holds, which add an extra layer of excitement to their experience. One of the standout features of this climbing area is the stunning cave system. Climbers can explore the labyrinthine passages within the cave, which offer challenging and unconventional climbing opportunities. The cave is also adorned with prehistoric Native American petroglyphs, adding a layer of historical significance.

Sam's Throne - Sam's Throne is a hard sandstone rock climbing area in the Boston Mountains of north central Arkansas, in the Ozark - St. Francis National Forest. The area contains over 100 named climbing routes of various difficulty, including the well-known Chickenhead Wall. Aesthetically pleasing faces loom over an exposed ridge littered with beautiful pines below. The area was one of the first established in Arkansas and its classic climbs will keep you coming back for more!

PERSONAL PREPARATION: UNL Outdoor Adventure trips are designed for beginners and people that may be more than experienced. That said, we advise people to take their physical condition seriously. Climbing is a very physical sport and to get the most enjoyment out of the trip being physically fit is a crucial part of this experience.

We will be climbing a variety of routes every day and being fit will allow you to get the most climbing done! Also, the more climbing experience that you can get under your belt before the trip, the more confident you will be on the rock!

TRANSPORTATION:

All transportation is included in the price of the trip. University vehicles will be used as transportation to and from Arkansas. We will depart from UNL Outdoor Adventures on Sunday, March 16th.

WEATHER:

Weather is very variable and subject to change, but the following are averages for mid-March. Please refer to the personal gear checklist to make sure you are prepared - rain gear and warm layers are a must!

Average High Temperature: 58 °F

Average Low Temperature: 40 °F

Sunrise: 7:26 AM

Sunset: 7:18 PM

***Climbing Temperatures should be excellent on this trip. However, it will be cool in the shade, and we will want to be prepared for cold, wet, and windy weather. Please consult the personal gear checklist and make sure you adequately pack for this trip. Raingear and dressing in layers are a must!*

CAMPSITES:

We will be camping in the front country at Steel Creek Campground. This campground has bathrooms, running water, and great views of the nearby Buffalo River and Roark Bluff. We will be camping in tents on this trip.

FOOD AND COOKING:

As with all aspects of this expedition, cooking will be a group effort. Everyone will be responsible for washing their own dishes and helping with the group dishes after each meal. All meals while at the climbing site will be provided by Outdoor Adventures. You will just need to cover the meals on the way to and from Arkansas. 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 like the Ozarks 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 soon be destroyed. The same goes for wilderness areas. If we all leave one little mark on the landscape, the wilderness would soon be despoiled. To leave no trace, we will be practicing minimum impact principles. This includes traveling and camping on durable surfaces, taking only pictures, and respecting other visitors and wildlife.

CLIMBING RELATED IMPACTS:

While climbing outdoors does impact the area, we can take measures to reduce our impact and respect the environment we have the privilege to recreate in. Whenever we leave tick marks with chalk as we climb, we will erase them before leaving. Hammocks are nice, but not in popular areas where we can avoid taking up more space than necessary. They are okay to set up away from base of crag & trails. The same goes for music, which is why we do not bring speakers to the climbing areas we recreate at.

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 to 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, AND CELL PHONES:

In the spirit of expedition behavior, please do not bring alcohol or illegal substances on the trip. Cigarettes are acceptable in 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. Further, please be respectful of other participants with cell phone use. We ask that cell phones not be used in vehicles or at the activity site and when used, please use them away from the group.

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.

MORE INFORMATION:

Climbing Routes <http://www.mountainproject.com/>

Ozark National Forest <http://www.fs.fed.us/oonf/ozark/index.html>

CONTACTS:

UNL Outdoor Adventures

402.472.4777

<http://crec.unl.edu/>



PERSONAL GEAR CHECKLIST

Personal Climbing Gear

- Chalk Bag (Can be provided by OA)
- Climbing Harness (Can be provided by OA)
- Climbing Shoes (Can be provided by OA)
- Climbing Helmet (Can be provided by OA)
- Comfortable Close Toed Shoes (a must!!!)
- Clothing Layers, long sleeve, hoody, jacket, etc.
- Comfortable Climbing Clothes
- Rain Jacket
- Sunglasses

*Note: Any personal climbing gear must be approved and inspected by Outdoor Adventures trip leaders.

Personal Clothing/Items

- Camp Shoes (close toed)
- Socks (Synthetic is best)
- Synthetic long underwear
- Synthetic underwear
- Quick Drying shorts and/or pants (lightweight)
- Rain pants
- Rain jacket
- Synthetic t-shirt (1-2)
- Synthetic long sleeve t-shirt
- Fleece or insulating jacket
- Lightweight gloves
- Lightweight stocking hat
- Sunglasses and Sun hat
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm with sunscreen
- Toiletries (toothbrush/paste)
- Prescription glasses, contacts, and case
- Personal first aid kit/medications/prescriptions
- Camera
- Journal pencil or pen
- Tampons, pads, towelettes
- Blister care (moleskin)
- 2L in water storage (i.e. 2 1L water bottles)

Travel

- Small travel backpack for the car & to carry to the crag
- Casual Clothes for car ride and being in town
- Toiletries/Towel
- Money/Credit Card

Gears that can be provided by Outdoor Adventures

- Backpack (5000 cubic inches)
- Tent
- Sleeping Bag (20 degree)
- Sleeping Pad
- Food bowl and spoon
- Headlamp
- All Climbing Ropes and Technical Gear
- Any personal climbing gear needed such as harness, helmet, shoes, chalk bag, etc.

Considerations: *When packing for this field experience, please consider that there will be limited space available in the vehicles. Please keep your personal luggage to a minimum and bring only a small personal backpack with only what you need.*

DAILY ITINERARY: *Please note that this itinerary is just tentative and is subject to change based on the decisions of the trip leaders.*

DAY 0 - Tuesday, 3/11/25

6:00-8:00pm Pre-Trip Meeting at the Outdoor Adventure Center

DAY 1 - Sunday, 3/16/25

Meet at Outdoor Adventures, drive to Steel Creek Campground

Eat lunch & dinner on the road (*meals paid for by you)

Arrive at campsite in evening

DAY 2-4 - Monday 3/17/25- Wednesday 3/19/25

Wake up!

Breakfast at camp

Pack lunch and gear

Travel to climbs

Climb, climb, climb! (Lunch will be at climbing spot)

Arrive back at campsite

Dinner

Chill time

Bedtime

DAY 5 - Thursday, 3/20/25

Wake up!

Breakfast at camp

Pack up camp

Lunch on the road

Arrive in Lincoln

****Please expect to be cleaning up at OA for about 30 minutes upon return!**