

Mountain Backpacking



Registration Closes April 25th at 12pm.

Prior backpacking experience is required to participate in this expedition. Prior ROPE trip participation preferred.

This trip has lots of information. Participants must thoroughly review trip timeline, plans, and gear.

Informational Meeting:

Friday April 19

5:00 PM in Rec Classroom 160A

Mandatory Pre-Trip Meeting

May 1

12:00 PM at Rec Center Classroom 160A

Bring all of your personal gear and trip clothes. Failure to have required personal gear will result in forfeit of trip registration.

We'll discuss final trip logistics and check personal readiness.

Mountain Backpacking

New Mexico/Colorado

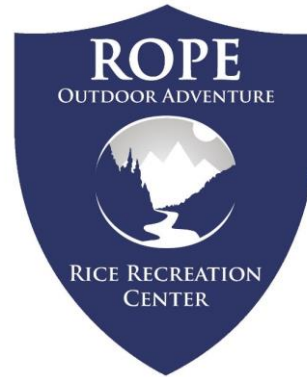
Itineraries shift according to conditions. Our trip goals are to backpacking in order of preference:

South San Juan Wilderness, CO

Pecos Wilderness, NM

Gila Wilderness, NM

This trip has a \$200 non-refundable deposit.



Wednesday May 1

12-3pm Pre Trip Meeting

Gear Issue, Food Packing, & Trip Review

Thursday May 2

6:00AM – Meet at Outdoor Adventure Center

6:15 AM – Depart Rice

**Breakfast & Lunch on the road*

Estimated 10 hours of travel. Camp en route ex. Santa Rosa SP/Balmorhea SP

4:30PM – ETA Camp. Gear orientation and dinner.

Friday May 3

7:00 AM – Breakfast

8:00 AM – Depart for Trailhead

**Lunch on the road*

Estimated 8 hours of travel. Camp at Trailhead.

4:00 PM – ETA Camp. LNT orientation, gear organization, & dinner.

Friday 4 – Tuesday May 8

On the trail in the mountains & rivers, having a blast!

Wednesday May 9

6:30 AM – Breakfast

9:00 AM – Exit Trailhead

**Lunch on the Road*

3:00PM – Camp en route to Campus ex. Las Cruces/Lubbock

Shower and **Victory Meal* in Town.

Thursday May 10

6:30 AM – Light Continental Breakfast

7:30 AM – Depart for Rice

**Lunch, & Dinner on the Road*

7:00 PM – ETA at Rice

Gear Cleaning and Check-In. Estimated 90 minutes.

8:30 PM – ETA Trip Complete

**Participants cover meals while driving to locations.*

ROPE is always excited to return to the mountains of New Mexico! This region holds special meaning to our director for its stunning views and fabulous weather. The mountains offer a cool escape from the growing spring heat alongside rewarding challenges and picturesque vistas. This trip is primarily a training trip for new ROPE leaders. Registration fees are reduced for participants as they join new leaders learning to lead under the guidance of the program director.

Final trail itineraries will not be available until late April as the program follows weather and snow reports. With many of the trail options above 7,000 feet and peak destinations at 10,000 feet, high elevation and snow are two features that the trip and participants should prepare for. Mountain backpacking requires good fitness alongside strong mental fortitude to work through the physical and environmental challenges.

This season's trip aspirations are:

1. South San Juan Wilderness in Southern Colorado. A spectacular region, the trails will cover high elevation, alpine rivers, and potentially include sections of the Continental Divide and/or some cross-country travel. Snow is very likely!
2. Pecos Wilderness in Northeast New Mexico. An alpine valley bounded by a horseshoe ridgeline, this trip will cross numerous steams, travel consistently at high altitude, and potentially attempt summits near 11,000 feet. Snow is very likely!
3. Gila Wilderness in Southwest New Mexico. The first designated wilderness, this trip follows the river canyons, up into highland meadows and then mountain ridges. Although on average lower altitude, this trip still ranges from 5,000 to 10,000 feet depending on route. Hot springs are possible and walking in rivers is guaranteed!

Past trip routes and data can be reviewed here:

<https://caltopo.com/m/KG45/PR147G7FAB2J8810>

Mountain weather can change unpredictably, but in general we can expect days in the mid 60's and nights in the mid 30's. Packing for cold weather will increase participant comfort and enjoyment out on trail even if temperatures are above average. **Participants should expect wet conditions in all areas from stream crossings, river walking, or snow melt.**

Participants are expected to:

- Be in good physical and mental health and possess the physical strength to manage challenges including: carry a 40-50 pound backpack, hike for 6-10 miles over rugged terrain, maintain composure during challenges.
- This trip will frequently be traveling above 7,000 feet in elevation which can be challenging for even athletic individuals.
- Learn and practice exemplary Leave No Trace philosophy and methods.
- Follow directions where the group takes precautionary action to minimize risk.
- Provide essential footwear and clothing that meets the demands of this trip.
Hiking boots/shoes are required. Sneakers and running shoes will not be permitted as hiking footwear. Waterproof boots are not recommended for the Gila Wilderness.
- Uphold technology hiatus. Cell phone use will be restricted to photography only.

Gear List for Backpacking Trips

Please dress & pack appropriately for this trip. Make sure to bring everything listed below to the pre-trip meeting to ensure a comfortable and successful backpacking trip! Participants should consider borrowing items, thrift shops, or discount online vendors to acquire missing gear.

All ROPE gear that is listed as provided will be rented out by each participant at the pre-trip meeting. There is no fee for this rental.

Essential items ROPE provides:

- ✓ Backpack
- ✓ Sleeping Bag & Liner
- ✓ Sleeping Pad
- ✓ Bowl & Personal Utensils
- ✓ Headlamp
- ✓ Tents
- ✓ Cooking Equipment
- ✓ Trail Meals

Required Small Bag for road travel:

- Small Duffel/Backpack (<30Liters)
- 1 pair pants/shorts
- 2 shirts
- 2 underwear
- 1-2 socks
- Toiletries & towel for shower
- 1 pair of clean footwear (can be camp shoes)

Optional/Recommended:

- Camera (H2O protection encouraged)
- Sun hat
- Camelback water bladder
- Personal Water Filter
- Favorite Snack Foods (small amount)
- Book/Games/Journal

Required Personal Clothes & Items

No Cotton Clothing

- Medications - *You must inform us if you take any medications.*
- 1 Pair of **Hiking Boots or Hiking Shoes**
- 1 **Hooded Rain Jacket** (No Ponchos)
- 1 [insulating jacket](#) (down or synthetic)
- 1 [insulating top](#) (base or midweight)
- 0-1 layering top (fleece or midweight)
- 1 [insulating bottom](#) (base or midweight)
- 0-1 synthetic short-sleeve shirt
- 1-2 synthetic long-sleeve shirts
- 0-1 pair of synthetic shorts
- 1-2 pairs of synthetic pants or rain pants
- 2-3 [pairs of hiking socks](#) (synthetic or wool)
- 2-4 underwear
- 1 warm hat
- 1 pair of warm gloves
- Camp shoes (lightweight; e.g. sandals/crocs)
- Bandana, Buff, or similar cloth
- Personal Toiletries (Toothbrush, Toothpaste, small soap)
- Small and lightweight face towel (4x4in)
- Sunglasses – Polarized is recommended
- Small sunscreen
- 2 Bottles for water (storage for 2 liters)

Gear List According to Use

It may be helpful to consider the packing list from this perspective as well. Participants will have a set of clothes to actively move and travel in, and then a second set of clothes for camp that will remain clean and dry to help them remain comfortable as the weather cools. Few if any spare clothes should be brought as your pack weight increases and pack space decreases with each additional item.

Essential items ROPE provides:

- ✓ Backpack
- ✓ Sleeping Bag & Liner
- ✓ Sleeping Pad
- ✓ Bowl & Personal Utensils
- ✓ Headlamp
- ✓ Tents
- ✓ Cooking Equipment
- ✓ Trail Meals

Required Small Bag for road travel:

- Small Duffle/Backpack (<30Liters)
- 1 pair pants/shorts
- 2 shirts
- 2 underwear
- 1-2 socks
- Toiletries & towel for shower
- 1 pair of clean footwear (can be camp shoes)

Required “Wet” Backpacking Clothes **No Cotton Clothing.**

- 1 Pair of **Hiking Boots or Hiking Shoes**
- 0-1 synthetic shirt (long or short sleeve)
- 1 Long sleeve synthetic shirt
- 0-1 pair of synthetic shorts
- 1 pair of synthetic pants
- 1-2 [pair of hiking socks](#) (synthetic or wool)
- 1-2 of underwear

Required “Dry” Camp Clothes & Items

- Medications - *You must inform us if you take any medications.*
- 1 **Hooded Rain Jacket** (No Ponchos)
- 1 [insulating jacket](#) (down or synthetic)
- 1 [insulating top](#) (base or midweight)
- 0-1 layering top (fleece or midweight)
- 1 [insulating bottom](#) (base or midweight)
- 1 warm hat
- 1 pair of warm gloves
- 1 [pair of hiking socks](#) (synthetic or wool)
- 1-2 of underwear
- 0-1 synthetic shirt (long or short sleeve)
- 1 pair of synthetic pants or rain pants
- Camp shoes (lightweight; e.g. sandals/crocs)
- Bandana, Buff, or similar cloth
- Personal Toiletries (Toothbrush, Toothpaste, small soap)
- Small and lightweight face towel (4x4in)
- Sunglasses – Polarized is recommended
- Small sunscreen
- 2 Bottles for water (storage for 2 liters)

Optional/Recommended:

- Camera (H2O protection encouraged)
- Sun hat
- Camelback water bladder
- Personal Water Filter
- Favorite Snack Foods (small amount)
- Book/Games/Journal

You made it!

Complete interest submission first.

Register for the Trip!

