Grand Canyon
Backpacking Expedition
Grand Canyon National Park, AZ
Spring Break 2020

Registration closes March 1st, 2020.

Schedule:
Wednesday January 22nd – Informational Meeting
February 17th – Pre-Trip Check-In 1 (required)
March 2nd – Pre-Trip Check-In 2 (required)
March 9th – Pre-Trip Meeting (required)

Saturday, March 14, 2020
AM Independent Travel to Phoenix Intl. Airport*
1:00PM Group meets at Airport.
1:30PM Depart for Campground near Flagstaff
4:00PM Campcraft and Final Gear Prep
6:00PM Dinner & Campfire
9:00PM Early to Bed

Sunday, March 15, 2020
5:30 AM Breakfast
6:00 AM Depart for Grand Canyon
8:30 AM Arrive at Grand Canyon Village
9:00 AM Shuttle to Yaki Point Trailhead

We’re Off!!

Monday, March 16- Friday March 20, 2020
5 more days traveling inside the canyon

Saturday, March 21, 2020
5:00 AM Breakfast
6:00 AM Depart for the Rim
12:00 PM Celebrate and Shower* at the Grand Canyon Village
2:30 PM Late Lunch in Flagstaff
6:00PM Departures begin from Phoenix Intl. Airport*

*Airfare, sundries, & meals off-trail not included in registration fee.
Carved from the Colorado Plateau by the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon averages 4,000 feet deep across 277 miles. The canyon reveals the geological strata extending back as far as 2 billion years through colorful and dramatic layers of sediment. Departing forests at the Rim, backpackers will follow steep cut drainages towards the Colorado River encountering unique desert and desert riparian ecosystems home to a number of endemic species many of which are threatened or endangered.

ROPE has received a limited number of permits to run a backpacking expedition below the rim of the Grand Canyon from March 15 to March 21, 2020. Grand Canyon trips are isolated and challenging. Participants will carry 35-40 pound backpacks over daily distances ranging 6 to 10 miles. Sections of the expedition will ascend over 2,000 feet in elevation including the last day which ascends the final 4,000 feet to the canyon rim. Physical fitness and stamina plus backpacking experience will be required to participate in the expedition. Grand Canyon weather is variable in March with temperatures on the rim ranging from 32 to 62 °F and temperatures inside the canyon ranging from 55 to 82 °F.

Over the course of 7 days and 6 nights, this expedition will travel 40 miles, descend from the South Rim to the Colorado River, and ascend a total of 8,400 in elevation. Participants will be backpacking from dispersed camping area to dispersed camping carrying all the equipment they need to explore a wild and majestic landscape. Low mileage days present opportunities for the group to rest or explore side canyons as day hikes. Water is scarce in the Grand Canyon and the trip will often carry 4-5 liters per person as they travel. This expedition will practice Leave No Trace ethics and educate all participants in the practices and philosophy that aid in maintaining American wilderness and natural spaces.

This expedition will be led by an experienced and Wilderness First Responder certified outdoor professional. ROPE expeditions carry GPS beacons and Satellite messengers in the event of an emergency. Mobile phone reception is not available in the Grand Canyon and participants will not be permitted to use phones on the expedition.
Gear List for Backpacking Trips

Please dress & pack appropriately for this trip. Make sure to bring everything listed below to ensure a comfortable and successful backpacking trip!

All gear that is listed as provided must still be rented out by each participant at the pre-trip meeting or some other time arranged with the trip leaders. There is no fee for this rental.

**Essential items ROPE provides:**
- Backpack w/ rain cover
- Sleeping Bag
- Sleeping Pad
- Bowl & Personal Utensils
- Headlamp
- Whistle
- Tents
- Cooking Equipment
- Trail Meals

**Necessary Personal Items**
- 1 Pair of Hiking Boots or Hiking Shoes
- 2-3 of hiking socks (synthetic or wool)
- 1-2 synthetic T-shirts
- 0-1 Long sleeve synthetic shirts
- 1 pair synthetic pants (zip-off preferable; NO jeans)
- 0-1 pair of synthetic shorts
- 1 Hooded Rain Jacket (No Ponchos)
- 1 fleece or down jacket
- 2-3 underwear
- 1 warm hat
- Personal toiletries (Toothbrush, etc.)
- 2 Bottles for water (storage for 2 liters/64oz)
- Small and lightweight face towel (4x4in)
- Medications (for allergies, etc.)

You Must inform us if you take any medications.

**Optional yet recommended**
- Sunglasses (strongly recommended)
- Camera (H2O protection encouraged)
- Journal & Pen
- Cards/Game
- Lightweight Drinking Mug
- Campshoes (lightweight; e.g. sandals)
- Sun hat
- Camelback water bladder
  - One-liter back-up bottle required.
- Bandana(s)
- Stuff sacks

**Small Bag for Travel**
- 1 pair pants/shorts
- 2 shirts
- 2 underwear
- 1-2 socks
- Toiletries for shower
- Money for meals on the road
It is not necessary for you to purchase a lot of expensive equipment; many items listed above you may already own. Items that you choose to purchase may be available at low cost from mail order suppliers or your local outdoor specialty shop. Our major concern is that all participants have appropriate equipment for a safe and comfortable experience.

If you are unsure whether an item or clothing you own is appropriate for this trip, please contact us prior to the trip or bring the item/clothing to the pre-trip meeting.

Please leave jewelry and other non-essentials at home.

These requirements are for the safety and comfort of participants. ROPE reserves the right to refuse involvement in the program to anyone not properly equipped.

Alcohol, tobacco, and recreational drugs will not be tolerated on any trips led by ROPE. If you have such items, do not bring them!