

Backpacking

Charon's Garden Wilderness,
Wichita Mountains, OK
November 27-December 1



*Registration closes Nov. 19 at 12pm or
when capacity is reached.*

Trip Leaders: Sienna M., James C.

Monday, November 25

Mandatory Pre-Trip Meeting 6:30 PM REC 160

Tuesday November 26

All bags and gear loaded by 5PM @ OAC

Wednesday November 27

12:30 PM – Depart from Rice

be punctual, holiday traffic impacts our travel time

PM– Dinner enroute

7:30 PM – Arrive at Fort Richardson State Park

PM – Relax and Camp

Thursday November 28

8 AM – Depart for Wichita Mountains

11 AM – Arrive at Doris Campground (Group C)

12 PM – Lunch

PM – Day hiking - approximately 6 miles

PM - Thanksgiving Dinner!

Friday November 29

Backpack into camping permit area - approximately 4 miles

Saturday November 30

Day hiking and backcountry exploration - approximately 5 miles

Sunday December 1

6 AM – Sunrise Hike to Trailhead

9 AM – Depart for Rice University

Lunch Enroute

6 PM – ETA at Rice University

Dinner – Be prepared for a dinner stop according to traffic.

**We will do our best to arrive back at Rice between 5 and 6pm but holiday traffic can change plans quickly.*

This trip is limited to undergraduate and graduate students.

This Thanksgiving spend some time outside building new community while disconnecting. ROPE is heading to the Wichita Mountains to explore the Charon Garden Wilderness and disconnect for a short break. Following a day at a refuge campground, this trip will take participants off trail into a permit only area to explore a fascinating section of Oklahoma. And of course, there will be a special camping version of the Thanksgiving meal! Trip registration covers transportation, meals on trail, outdoor gear, and associated recreation fees. Registration includes a \$50 deposit. Previous backpacking experience is recommended due to activity challenge. Participants assist with gear clean-up to encourage gear care and reduce trip costs.

Gear Guide for Cold Weather Extended Backpacking Trips

Please dress & pack appropriately for this trip. Review the guide below to support a comfortable and successful backpacking trip!

All the gear listed as provided is included in your trip registration. Rental agreements and gear issue will take place during your pre-trip meeting.

Equipment ROPE provides:

- ✓ Backpack w/ rain cover
- ✓ Sleeping Bag
- ✓ Sleeping Pad
- ✓ Bowl & Personal Utensils
- ✓ Headlamp
- ✓ Whistle
- ✓ Tents
- ✓ Cooking Equipment
- ✓ Trail Meals

Optional yet recommended

- Sunglasses (strongly recommended)
- Camera (H2O protection encouraged)
- Campshoes (lightweight; e.g. sandals)
- 1 pair of waterproof pants
- Sun hat
- Bandana(s)
- Journal & Pen
- Cards/Game
- Water reservoir (Camelbak)
 - One-liter back-up bottle required.

Necessary Personal Items:

- 1 Pair of Hiking Boots or Hiking Shoes
- 3-4 of hiking socks (synthetic or wool)
- 1 Hooded Rain Jacket (No Ponchos)
- 1 heavy fleece or down jacket
- 1-2 Long sleeve synthetic shirts (NO Cotton)
- 1-2 synthetic T-shirts (NO Cotton)
- 3-4 underwear
- 1-2 synthetic pants (NO Cotton)
- 0-1 pair of synthetic shorts
- 1 insulating long-sleeve shirt
- 1 insulating legs layer
- 1 warm hat
- Warm gloves
- Personal toiletries (Toothbrush, etc.)
- 2 Bottles for water (storage for 2 liters/64 oz)
- Small and lightweight face towel (4x4in)
- Medications (for allergies, etc.)
You must inform us if you take any medications.
- Money for meals on the road (if applicable)
- Passport & Travel Visas (Intl. Students)**

Small Bag for Travel

- 1 pair pants/shorts
- 2 shirts
- 2 underwear
- 1-2 socks
- Clean footwear
- Toiletries & Towel for shower
- Small bag (backpack or smaller)

For extended trips plan your clothing around 2 sets of clothes: 1 set for being active that will likely get wet from weather or exertion, and 1 set for camp which always remains packed and dry. A set of clothes per day is unrealistic and unmanageable, but an extra t-shirt and/or pair of socks are small and meaningful additions for many participants.

*Footwear Guidance: Appropriate footwear for backpacking is a sliding scale largely based around prior experience and terrain. The more challenging and rocky a trail is, the greater requirement for hiking shoes or boots. An established trail through the forest offers more flexibility for trail shoes. Participants with weeks of trail experience may consult with trip leaders on preferred footwear. Some restrictions may still apply including prohibitions on sandals.

It is not necessary for you to purchase a set of new expensive equipment; many items listed above you may already own as athletic or day-to-day apparel. Check with your friends for options to borrow or rent items too. Items that you choose to purchase may be available at low cost from online suppliers or local thrift store. Our primary 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.

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

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.

[Register for the Trip!](#)