

# Desert Camping

## Big Bend National Park, Texas



Registration closes Dec 5 at 12pm  
or when trip capacity has been met.

### **Mandatory Trip Meeting:**

Monday Dec 5<sup>h</sup>  
3:30pm Classroom 160A Rec Center

### **Tuesday December 13**

7:00AM Pack and Load Vehicles  
7:30AM Depart campus  
*\*Lunch on the Road*  
3PM Arrive Seminole Canyon State Park/Amistad Recreation Area

### **Wednesday December 14 - 16**

8:00AM Depart campground  
12PM Arrive Big Bend NP  
Camp and Hike in Central Region Chisos Basin

### **December 17**

Day Hiking in West region  
Relocate to Cottonwood Campground

### **December 18**

8AM Departure for Rice  
*\*Lunch & Dinner on the Road*  
5 PM ETA Rice University  
6 PM Finish Gear Clean up

*\*Participants cover individual meals while driving to locations.*

ROPE is excited to head out to the gem of Texas, Big Bend National Park! This region is unique, spectacular, and around remarkable- the desert and mountains are sure to be remembered for years to come. Be sure to check out the National Park website to learn more about Big Bend.

**This trip is will be strenuous at times and requires good physical fitness with experience hiking long distances.** Participants can expect multiple days where the group will travel over 10 miles to maximize our opportunity to explore the area. Sturdy hiking footwear and day packs are required. This trip will frequently be

traveling off trail through rough terrain which can be challenging for even athletic individuals.

Participants will return to a pre-established campsite each evening. Facilities will vary and participants should anticipate primitive camp sites with vault toilets, and no facilities available during day activities.

This is a cell phone free trip. Participants will be required to put phones on airplane mode. Phones may be used for photography or quiet listening during personal time at campgrounds. Speakers and use during daily group activities is not permitted.

The desert weather is typically cool and mild with highs in the 60's and lows above 30. Layered clothing to adjust temperature during the day couple with a comfortable warm jacket and pants will help create a positive experience. Please review the packing list and/or stop by the Outdoor Adventure Center to help prepare for the trip.

**Participants are expected to:**

-Be in good physical and mental health and possess the physical strength to manage challenges including: carrying a 15lb backpack, hike for 9-11 miles over rugged terrain, maintain composure during challenges.

-Learn and practice exemplary Leave No Trace philosophy and techniques.

-Follow directions where the group takes precautionary action to minimize risk.

-Provide essential footwear and clothing that meets the demands of this trip.

*Supportive trail or running shoes required. Hiking boots or shoes are recommended. Casual sneakers, fashion shoes, or similar footwear are inadequate for our activities.*

*Heavyweight fleece or down jackets in combination with a windproof rain jacket are critical for your comfort during cold evenings.*

## Gear Guide for Cold Weather

### Overnight Camping 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:

- Sleeping Bag
- Sleeping Pad
- Bowl & Personal Utensils
- Headlamp
- Whistle
- Tents
- Water Filters
- Cooking Equipment
- Trail Meals

#### Optional yet recommended

- Sunglasses (strongly recommended)
- Camera (H2O/Dust protection encouraged)
- Journal & Pen
- Cards/Game
- Favorite Snack Foods
- Sun hat
- Camelback water bladder
- Bandana(s)

#### Necessary Personal Items

- 1 Day Backpack for Hiking
- 1 Pair of Hiking Boots or Hiking Shoes
- 2-3 hiking socks (synthetic or wool)
- 1-2 synthetic T-shirts
- 1-2 Long sleeve synthetic shirts
- 1-2 synthetic pants (NO jeans)
- 0-1 pair of synthetic shorts
- 1 Hooded Rain Jacket (No Ponchos)
- 1 heavy fleece or down jacket
- 1 insulating long-sleeve shirt
- 1 insulating legs layer
- 3-4 of underwear
- 1 warm hat
- Warm gloves
- 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.**
- Money for meals on the road (if applicable)
- Clean shoes for travel