Canoe-Camping

SPRING BREAK: March 5-13, 2016

Gulf Coast: Florida & Blackwater River

COST: $385

Cost includes: van transportation, all food while camping, hotel at the end of the trip, group camping gear, river bags, paddling jackets, canoes, kayaks, and paddling gear.

Sign up: on-line by midnight on Wed. Nov. 18.

Bring $200 (cash, check, credit card, or Vanderbilt Card) to the VRWC within two business days.
TRIP OVERVIEW:

This Spring Break we will be driving down to the Gulf Coast for a big canoe-camping trip! The trip will include car camping at Big Lagoon State Park and Bear Lake in Florida. There will be a chance to hang out at the beach on the coast before heading to Florida’s Blackwater River State Forest. There, we will go on a 5-day, 4-night canoe-camping trip down the incredible Blackwater River. (The water is a dark, tannin-stained color, but it contrasts vividly with the snow-white sand bars at each bend). This is definitely an area that you have to just be there to experience all of its beauty. No experience is necessary for this week of camping and paddling, but you must know how to swim. We will teach canoeing on Bear Lake prior to the river trip. Participants are expected to attend 2-3 Pre-Trip Meetings in 2016.

This trip is designed for both experienced and beginner paddlers. Although it will be too cool to do much swimming, the average highs should be in the 70’s, while the average lows could easily be in the 40’s. Unlike the canyon trip, campfires will be allowed along the Blackwater River. We will be primarily paddling canoes, 2 people plus gear per boat. We will also have 2-3 long kayaks on the trip to give everyone a chance to paddle a kayak. Previous paddling experience is helpful, but not required. We will stay in a cheap hotel in Montgomery or Birmingham, AL on the last night of the trip. Estimated trip duration: 6:30 am Sat. 3/5 to 4 pm Sun. 3/13.

Due to the scope of this trip, participants are required to attend three pre-trip meetings. Also note that the cost includes: Transportation (via van), Group Equipment (including canoes, kayaks, river bags, spray jackets, and cooking gear), Camping, hotel on the last night, and all food while camping. Participants will be responsible for their own personal equipment and "road food/snacks".

>>> THIS TRIP IS LIMITED TO 12 PARTICIPANTS . . .
>>> . . . SO DON'T DELAY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED........!!
TRIP ITINERARY:

Sat. March 5:   Drive south! Camp at Big Lagoon State Park, along the coast.

Sunday:      Go to the Beach and hang out
               Camp at Big Lagoon State Park

Monday:      Drive to Bear Lake.  Set up Camp.  Optional hike around the lake.
               Canoe on Bear Lake  (teach canoeing to beginners)

Tuesday:     Run Shuttle
               Canoe around 3 miles
               Camp on a white sandy beach

Wednesday:  Canoe around 14 miles
               Camp on a white sandy beach

Thursday:   Canoe around 11 miles
               Camp on a white sandy beach

Friday:      Day of Rest
               Hang out on beach, go for a hike, etc.
               Continue Camping on the white sandy beach

Saturday:   Canoe 2.5 miles
               - End at Blackwater River State Park
                 (total miles paddled = 30.5)
               - Run shuttle to get the cargo van
               - Begin driving north
               Sleep at a cheap hotel in Montgomery, or Birmingham, AL

Sunday:     Breakfast and drive back to Nashville
Photos from past Canoe-Camping and Canoeing trips
Trip Coordinators: Sean Wilkinson, Alex Auner, and Mason Loos.

FOR MORE INFO: Contact Linda Rosenkranz at 615-343-7898 or email to Outdoorrec@vanderbilt.edu

Sign up by Wednesday Nov. 18!

Join us for a great SPRING BREAK on the Blackwater River of FL!