

Fall 2015 Trip Descriptions

****All return times are approximate and depend on group pace, traffic, and weather. We do our best to return on time but sometimes things happen****

Registration for all trips will open on September 1st

Great Falls Hiking Saturday Sept.19th Registration ends Sept. 18th

Great Falls Park lies along the Potomac River in northern Virginia. Come join us for a nice day of hiking at beautiful Great Falls. See the falls and admire the scenery while we hike for about 4 miles. This will be a great way to get out into nature and relax as well as a nice introduction to hiking in our area. .

Cost: \$5

What to wear: weather appropriate clothing and good walking or hiking shoes (closed-toed sneakers or boots)

What to bring: a daypack containing ID, 2 water bottles, lunch, sunscreen, rain jacket and any other layers you might need

When/Where: Meet at Skyline Fitness Center on the Fairfax Campus at 9am. We will drive to Great Falls, hike, eat lunch along the trail, and return to campus around 3pm. (Trip can go longer if students desire to hike more)

Great Falls Rock Climbing Sunday Sept.20th Registration ends Sept. 19th

Great Falls offers some of the closest climbing to campus. We welcome all levels of climbers and encourage those with no experience to come out and learn. This is a great area whether it's your first time climbing outside or you're a trad master. All necessary climbing equipment is provided.

Cost: \$10

What to wear: weather appropriate clothing that you can comfortably climb in and good walking or hiking shoes (closed-toed sneakers or boots).

What to bring: a daypack containing ID, 2 water bottles, lunch, sunscreen, rain jacket and any other layers you might need. If you have your own climbing shoes, harness, and helmet you may bring them but they must be inspected and approved by the trip leader in order to use on our trips.

When/Where: We will meet at Skyline Fitness Center at 8am and drive to Great Falls. We will drive to Great Falls, climb, and return to campus between 3 and 4pm.

Kayaking & Tubing Harper's Ferry Friday Sept.25th Registration ends Sept. 23rd

Today we head out to Harper's Ferry, WV to enjoy a day on the water. The day will start with kayaking and after you've paddled you will be rewarded with a peaceful float down the river in an inner tube.

Cost: \$35

What to wear: weather appropriate clothing, bathing suit, and secure water shoes **NO FLIP FLOPS**

What to bring: Bathing suit, towel, 2 bottles of water, lunch/snacks, water shoes, (can be rented from us)

Small daypack you can ride with*

ID

Lunch/snacks for the first day

Sunscreen

Rain jacket* and any other layers you might need.

Headlamp or small flashlight

Plastic bowl and eating utensil* (short Tupperware works well)

Toothbrush

Any minimal toiletries you may require (contact solution, etc)

Optional knife

*These items are available to rent

****We will provide dinner and breakfast, and group camping and sleeping equipment****

When/Where: Meet at Skyline Fitness Center at 8am on the 10th. We will go over equipment and pack up here and then drive out to the trail. We will spend the day riding and camp for the evening. We will finish the ride the following morning and return to campus in the early afternoon on Sunday.

Hiking Billy Goat Trail (Family Weekend) Saturday Oct.17th

It's family weekend! This trip is a collaboration between the office of Orientation and Family Programs and Services and Outdoor Adventures. Bring your family out for a half-day of hiking with us. The big group of participants will be split into three smaller groups that will each take a section of the Billy Goat Trail. Once everybody's hikes are over, the three groups will meet back up and return to Mason together. This will be a great way to keep the whole family entertained. Sign up at <http://masonfamilyevents.gmu.edu/>

FULL

Cost: \$10

What to wear: weather appropriate clothing and good walking or hiking shoes (closed-toed sneakers or boots)

What to bring: a daypack containing ID, water, sunscreen, rain jacket and any other layers you might need

When/Where: Meet at Skyline Fitness Center at 8:00AM, arrive back at Mason at 1:30pm

Rock Climbing Annapolis Rock Saturday Oct.24th Registration Closes Oct. 22nd

Head out to Maryland with us to have a fun day of rock climbing. Annapolis Rock offers nice views and fun climbing. Located along the Appalachian Trail; Annapolis Rock requires an easy 1.5 mile approach hike to get to the climbing. We'll spend several hours climbing and there may be the opportunity to head down the trail a bit farther to a great scenic overlook.

Cost: \$10

What to wear: weather appropriate clothing that you can comfortably climb in and good walking or hiking shoes (closed-toed sneakers or boots).

What to bring: a daypack containing ID, 2 water bottles, lunch, sunscreen, rain jacket and any other layers you might need. If you have your own climbing shoes, harness, and helmet you may bring them but they must be inspected and approved by the trip leader in order to use on our trips.

When/Where: We will meet at Skyline Fitness Center at 8am and drive to Annapolis Rock. We will return to campus around 4pm.

White Oak Canyon Hike**Sunday Oct.25th****Registration ends Oct. 23rd**

White Oak Canyon is a beautiful 4-5 hour hike with frequent waterfall views. We will stop by one of the falls for lunch along the way. Come join us for one of our favorite hikes!

Cost: \$5

What to wear: weather appropriate clothing and good walking or hiking shoes (closed-toed sneakers or boots)

What to bring: a daypack containing ID, 2 water bottles, lunch, sunscreen, rain jacket and any other layers you might need

When/Where: Meet at Skyline Fitness Center on the Fairfax Campus at 8am. We will drive to White Oak Canyon, hike, eat lunch along the trail, and return to campus around 5-6pm.

Haunted Costume Night Hike**Friday Oct.30th****Registration ends Oct. 29th**

Are you afraid of the dark? Well, you'd better not be, because we're going for a night hike through a supposedly haunted section of the Appalachian Trail! Crampton's Gap is the only place where the Appalachian Trail passes through a section of a major civil war battlefield. Hundreds of soldiers died here and legend has it you can still hear their voices and the sounds of cannon fire through the forest. We will hike by the light of our headlamps and the nearly-full moon. Don't forget to wear your costume to really get in the Halloween spirit!

Cost: \$5

What to wear: a weather appropriate costume that you can see out of and good walking or hiking shoes (closed-toed sneakers or boots)

What to bring: a daypack containing ID, 2 water bottles, snacks, headlamp or flashlight (we will provide these if you don't have one), rain jacket and any other layers you might need

When/Where: Meet at Skyline Fitness Center on the Fairfax Campus at 4pm. We will drive to Crampton's Gap arriving just before the sun goes down, hike, and return to campus around 11pm.

Prince William Forest Park Hike**Saturday Nov.8th****Registration ends Nov. 6th**

We're going to Prince William Forest Park for an easy 6 mile hike through the woods. Along the way there are creeks and flowers to look at, and maybe some wildlife if we're lucky! It's sure to be a nice way to find some peace in your crazy college schedule.

Cost: \$5

What to wear: weather appropriate clothing and good walking or hiking shoes (closed-toed sneakers or boots)

What to bring: a daypack containing ID, 2 water bottles, lunch, sunscreen, rain jacket and any other layers you might need

When/Where: Meet at Skyline Fitness Center on the Fairfax Campus at 9am. We will drive to Prince William Forest Park, hike, eat lunch along the trail, and return to campus around 2-3pm.

Overnight Backpacking in Shenandoah National Park Nov.14th-15th Registration ends Nov. 12th

For our last trip of the semester we will be going on an overnight trip to beautiful Shenandoah National Park. There will be about 6 to 7 miles of hiking each day and we will set up camp in the evening on the first night. All skill levels are welcome!

Cost: \$25 which covers transportation, group gear (tents, stoves, etc.), dinner Saturday, breakfast Sunday, and Sunday lunch

Or

\$35 which covers the above, plus includes backpack, sleeping bag & pad, rain gear, headlamp, bowl and spoon

What to wear: weather appropriate clothing and good walking or hiking shoes (closed-toed sneakers or boots)

What to bring:

Backpacking pack* (big enough for your personal equipment as well as your share of group gear and food)

Sleeping Pad*

Sleeping Bag appropriate for the temperatures*

2 liter-sized water bottles

Headlamp or flashlight*

Wool or synthetic socks for each day plus a spare pair (avoid cotton)

Rain gear* (no umbrellas)

Plastic bowl and eating utensil* (Tupperware works well)

Clothing appropriate for the weather (synthetics are best, *cotton is strongly discouraged* except for t-shirts)

Good shoes or boots

Sunscreen

VERY minimal necessary toiletries (contact solution, toothbrush etc)

Lunch/snacks for the first day

Optional knife

*These items are available to rent individually or you can rent all of them by paying the additional \$10 gear fee

When/Where: Meet at Skyline Fitness Center at 8am on the 14th. We will go over equipment and pack up here and then drive out to the trail. We will spend the day hiking and camp for the evening. We will finish the hike the following morning and return to campus on Sunday afternoon.