**WINTER BREAK TRIP INFO:**

**CANOEING IN OKEFENOKEE WILDLIFE REFUGE, GA**

Trip Itinerary

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| 12/5: Meet at Kalamazoo College Campus, Drive 10+ hours to Cloudland Canyon State Park, GA for overnight camping with all 3 trip groups |
| 12/6: Drive to campground near Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge, Pick-up any people flying in to Jacksonville |
| 12/7 – 12/11 morning: Explore Okefenokee in canoes, moving campsites each night, staying in tents on raised platforms at night, moving camp each night, paddling between 6-11 miles per day |
| 12/11 afternoon: Load van and trailer and drive to campground near Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge |
| 12/12: Drop off any people flying out from Jacksonville, Drive to Cloudland Canyon State Park in GA and rejoin the other winter break trip groups |
| 12/13: Drive back to K college (return in later evening) |

Canoe Trip Daily Schedule

Wake Up

Breakfast

Pack up camp (take down tents, pack up gear, etc.)

Canoe

Pause for Lunch

Canoe

Snack

Canoe

Arrive at platform campsite

Set up camp

Dinner

Evening hang-out and reflection time

For more details: <https://outdoor.kzoo.edu/trips-and-programs/winter-break-trip/winter-break-trip-details/>

Questions? Contact [outdoorprograms@kzoo.edu](mailto:outdoorprograms@kzoo.edu)

Arrival, Departure, and Travel Information

**Everyone will need to complete the Travel Information Form by November 12th to communicate your travel plans to us.** Please be sure to follow the guidelines below when planning your travel.

* **TRAVELING TO OKEFENOKEE BY KALAMAZOO COLLEGE OUTDOOR PROGRAMS VANS**:
  + Arrival on campus: Sunday, December 5th by 8 am. We will depart campus promptly at 9 am.
  + Return to campus: Monday, December 13th – plan for later evening.
  + Please note: dorms will not be open to students prior to or after the trip. You are responsible for transportation and lodging before we depart campus for the trips and upon your return to campus at the end of the trip.
* **TRAVELING TO OKEFENOKEE BY PLANE**:
  + Flights must be in and out of Jacksonville, FL Airport (airport code: JAX)
  + Arrival: Monday, December 6th, Flights must arrive BEFORE 3:00 pm
  + Departure: Sunday, December 12th, Flights must depart AFTER 9:00 am
* **TRAVELING TO OKEFENOKEE BY CAR**
  + Arrival: Monday, December 6th after 3:00 pm near Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge (specific location to be determined shortly)
  + Departure: Sunday, December 12th before 8 am from near Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge (specific location to be determined shortly)

Required Paperwork – Due by November 12th!

* **Outdoor Programs Release** (Complete at Pre-Trip Meeting): https://outdoor.kzoo.edu/trips-and-programs/sign-the-release/
* **Medical History Form** (Complete at Pre-Trip Meeting)
* **Travel Information Form**: https://outdoor.kzoo.edu/trips-and-programs/winter-break-trip/winter-break-travel-information/
* **Gear Rental Form**: https://outdoor.kzoo.edu/gear-rental-form/
  + If you need to check out any personal gear from Outdoor Programs at no extra cost

What We Provide

* Canoe Equipment: Boats, Paddles, PFDs (Life Jacket)
* Food and Water (all meals and snacks on travel and trip days – you are welcome to supplement with some of your own snacks as well or bring spending money for extra food on our driving days, we can accommodate dietary restrictions and allergies as long as we know about them on your medical history form)
* First Aid Kit (including typical first aid items and basic medications such as Ibuprofen, Tylenol, anti-diarrheal medication, etc.) carried by leaders certified in wilderness medicine
* Camping gear: tents, cooking equipment, bathroom kits, etc.

How to Pack for the Trip (Recommended)

Bag #1: Small bag to have with you in the van on driving days

Set of clean Driving Clothes

* Clothes to wear on the drive down to GA and same set to wear on the way back to MI (including a different pair of shoes) – this is highly recommended!

Extra warm layers

* Very likely the nights could be a bit chilly camping in Georgia. An extra warm layer or two will be helpful.

Additional Items

* Entertainment, Personal medications, Snacks, Water bottle, Spending money

Bag #2 (60 Liter backpack or large duffel)

Set of Paddling Clothes

* Quick-dry pants or shorts
* Quick-dry t-shirt
* Additional long-sleeve shirt for sun protection
* Keens or sneakers (closed-toed paddling shoes)
* Sun hat and sunglasses
* Windbreaker/rain jacket

Set of Camp Clothes

* 2nd set of clothes (similar to paddling) so you always have a dry set to change into in camp
* Camp shoes (closed toed)
* Warm socks
* Long underwear/base layers for chilly nights

All other items and gear from the packing list

Okefenokee Packing List

\*All items on the packing list are REQUIRED unless otherwise noted.

Equipment

* Sleeping bag and stuff sack – mummy-style, minimum 20-30˚F rating, compressible (1)\*
* Sleeping pad – closed-cell foam pad or inflatable (1)\*
* Backpack/dry bag – at least 60 Liters/3500 cubic inches, internal frame packs are highly recommended\*

Personal Hygiene/Medication

* Toothbrush/toothpaste
* Glasses/Contacts – and backups
* Tampons/sanitary napkins (for those who menstruate – bring this even if you are not scheduled to menstruate during the trip)
* Personal prescription medications

Additional Items

* Water bottles – 6 LITERS TOTAL\*
  + You need to have the capacity to bring 6 liters of water – get creative! Nalgenes, 2-liter soda bottles, milk jugs, etc.
* Cup/bowl (1)\*
  + A square sized Tupperware with a lid will work great as your plate/bowl!
* Spoon/fork (1)\*
  + This can be a regular spoon and fork from your silverware drawer
* Headlamp – and extra set of batteries (1)\*
* Gloves/mittens – lightweight, no cotton!
* Large plastic heavy duty trash bags (2-3)
* Gallon-sized Ziploc bags (5ish)
* Lip balm/chapstick (1)
* Brimmed hat (1)
* Sunglasses (1)
* Sunscreen – SPF 25+ (1)
* Insect repellant
* Personal snacks
* Some spending money for snacks on driving days (optional but recommended)
* Entertainment for the drive (i.e. headphones, books, CDs, etc.)
* ID and a copy of your insurance card

Clothing

* Socks – wool or synthetic (2-3)\*
* Paddling shoes – closed-toed, hard sole (1)
  + Ex. Keens, Water shoes, Sneakers
* Camp shoes – closed-toed (1)
  + Ex. Extra pair of sneakers, crocs
  + NOT chacos or tevas that are open-toed
* T-shirts/tank tops – no cotton! (2)
* Long underwear top – no cotton! (1)
* Insulating shirt/jacket – medium weight (1)
* Rain jacket – lightweight, waterPROOF (1)\*
* Insulating hat – synthetic/wool (1)
* Underwear – cotton ok (3ish)
* Long underwear bottom – no cotton! (1)
* Shorts – no cotton! (1)
* Pants – quick-drying, sun protection, not denim or cotton! (1)
* Rain pant – lightweight and water proof (1)\*
* Set of clean, comfy clothes for the driving days (including an extra set of shoes)

Optional Items

* Folding pocket knife
* Small towel – fast-drying and compact is best
* Bandana
* Insulated pant – fleece or synthetic-filled
* Camera
* Personal first-aid supplies (band-aids, moleskin, OTC painkillers, etc.)
* Lighter
* Bug net – highly recommended
* Watch
* Journal and writing utensil
* Book, cards, frisbee, hacky sack
* Travel size shampoo/soap (we may have access to showers at the campground on our way back to MI)
* Collapsible camp chair\*
* Windbreaker
* Cleansing wipes (small amount)

\*These items can be checked-out from the Outdoor Programs gear room for no extra fee. Please complete the Gear Rental Form before November 12th if you would like to check out any of these items.

*Note*: If you need help finding specific items or are having trouble sourcing anything, *please let us know* – we may have extra items that you can check out or know where you can get the item without spending too much money.

*Please do not bring*: Illegal drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco or nicotine products (this is a nicotine-free trip), Prescription meds without a prescription, Sheath knives