Backpacking the Franconia Ridge Trail

May 13-18, 2018

Five nights in the backcountry wilderness, including one night stay in the famous AMC Greenleaf Hut
$300

Trip Overview

Join us on an expedition to spend five days hiking the scenic backcountry of the New Hampshire White Mountains. The Franconia Ridge Trail is popularly known as one of the most beautiful and rewarding hikes in the area. We will spend four nights camping at established AMC sites, and enjoy one night sleeping and cooking in the famous Greenleaf Hut atop Mount Lafayette. If you’re looking for something to do during the week before graduation without having to go home, this trip falls perfectly within the dates to return back to campus for Baccalaureate and Commencement. Our trip is also perfect for those who are looking for an exciting way to start the summer and gain some WICKED cool new experiences.

While we will be covering a lot of ground, this trip is well within the limits of students who want to explore the White Mountains and backcountry camping. Although sometimes physically challenging, we will travel at a manageable pace and enjoy this wonderful experience together.

General Schedule of Trip

Sunday, May 13th: Depart from Gettysburg College and arrive at Hancock Campground at night
May 14: Hike to Thirteen Falls Campground
May 15: Hike and stay night at Greenleaf Hut
May 16: Hike Franconia Trail and backcountry camp
May 17: Hike Osseo Trail and stay at Hancock Campground
Friday, May 18: Return to Gettysburg College

Facilitators

This program will be facilitated by GRAB staff’s High Garst ’20 and Meira Ruben ’20. High, an Environmental Studies major, plans to study abroad in Tanzania, Africa during his junior year, and likes long walks on the beach. Meira is a Sociology Major.

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**Registration and Payment:** Registration is at [www.gettysburg.edu/grab](http://www.gettysburg.edu/grab). A $150 non-refundable deposit is due at time of registration to secure a place on the trip of your choice. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, e-checks or cash. The final payment will be required at least 60 days prior the trip departure date. To register, please fill out the online form or call the Office of Experiential Education at 717.337.6319.

**Not Included in the Price:** Hospitalization, individual evacuation costs, insurance, snacks or meal bought on the car ride up to New Hampshire.

**The Hike:** Trekking distances range from 5-10 miles a day. Average trekking time ranges from 4-8 hours per day. While these will be strenuous days, we will make sure we include plenty of stops for water breaks, lunch, appreciating the overlooks, and general conversation.

**Group Size:** The trip consists of two GRAB staff members from the Office of Experiential Education and up to eight participants from the Gettysburg College community; students, employees and their families, and alumni of the college are all welcome.

**Transportation:** We will drive 11-seater Gettysburg vans to and from campus for the expedition. The cost of transportation is included. If you would like to be picked up at some point on our journey to campus for graduation, that can be arranged.

**Accommodations:** We will camp at developed sites along the trail at night and spend one night inside an AMC hut.

**Meals:** The price of this trip covers all breakfasts, lunches, snacks, and dinners. Participants will only be responsible for buying themselves lunch on the way up to the mountains on May 13th. On the trail, we will cook 5-star meals together using camp stoves, and make a special meal during our night at the Greenleaf Hut using their kitchen amenities.

**Weather:** Be prepared for moderate temperatures around 60 degrees during the day and colder nights around 40. New Hampshire spring temperatures vary depending on how cold the winter was, so we cannot predict whether there will still be snow on the ground. However, we will bring crampons in case of icy conditions and we will discuss packing lists closer to the trip. One good rule of thumb is the more prepared for cold weather, the better!

**Physical Preparation:** You do not need to be a top notch athlete to participate in this expedition, but proper preparation will make the trip much more enjoyable and easier for you. Exercising 3-5 days a week and walking with a 30-40 pound pack to get used to the weight are great ways to prepare. No prior experience hiking is required, and all backcountry skills and expectations will be covered during the trip.

**Health and Medical & Release of Liability:** We require each participant to fill out medical/liability forms for Gettysburg College and for any contracted services who request similar documentation. We can provide information on short term insurance that covers baggage, accident/life, and trip cancellation which is required for our international programs. Please contact us if you have any questions.

**Cancellation of Trips:** We reserve the right to cancel trips due to lack of participants, State Department warnings, or natural occurrences that may be potentially hazardous. If you cancel the trip more than 60 days before the departure date, you will receive a full refund minus the $150 deposit. If cancellation occurs 45 -60 days prior to the departure date a 50% refund is available. If cancellation occurs 21 - 44 days prior to the trip a 25% refund will be available. There will be no refunds for cancellations made within 21 days of the expedition.