Kayaking the Connecticut River, New Hampshire
May 23 – June 1, 2017
$950.00
Includes all backcountry permits and meals, transportation, lodging and campsites, and kayaking gear.

Trip Overview
New England is blessed with beautiful mountain views and scenic small towns. This journey will allow you to experience the best of Vermont and New Hampshire in a way that few have the chance to. We will get comfortable in the kayaks while honing our skills on the famous Squam Lake or another lake in the region. While conditions determine where we will spend our time, the trip will include plenty of opportunities to improve your paddling skills, and may offer the chance to explore the White Mountains and several very remote and beautiful paddling locations. This is a great trip for anyone interested in kayaking, visiting one of the most beautiful parts of the country, or if who is up for an adventure. No previous paddling experience is necessary.

After some practice in our boats we aim to hop on the Connecticut River, following the same water trail as many Native Americans and early settlers. As one of the fourteen American Heritage Rivers and the longest river in New England, the Connecticut River is protected environmentally, culturally, and historically.

General Itinerary

May 23rd: Depart Gettysburg for New Hampshire
May 24th-26th: Explore the lakes and mountains and learn paddling basics
May 27th: Launch Kayaks onto the Connecticut River*
May 28th-30th: Overnight paddling on the river*
May 31st: Leave the water behind for a shower and final dinner near Hanover, NH
June 1st: Return to Gettysburg

Facilitators
This program will be facilitated by senior staff members Meghan Brady and Andrew Burd. As a Biology and Environmental Studies major, Meghan enjoys spending her free time herping in the forests of Central America. She has led GRAB trips to Cumberland Island, the Suwannee River, and even to the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania. Andrew led a trip to the real Grand Canyon last May, and has visited over 10 other national and state parks during his time in GRAB. Andrew is a History major and ping-pong aficionado.

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Registration and Payment: Registration is open online at www.gettysburg.edu/grab until March 20, 2017. 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 30 days prior to the trip departure date. To register, please fill out the online form or call the GRAB Office at 717.337.6313 to register over the phone.

Not Included in the Price: Hospitalization, individual evacuation costs, insurance, meals in destination cities prior to and at the conclusion of the trip, souvenirs, alcohol, or other personal expenses incurred outside the scope of the trip. We DO NOT include airfare in the pricing of our trips. We want to give participants the opportunity to have flexibility in their travel arrangements. Some people will have frequent flyer miles, many people will be traveling from various destinations, while others may already be at the site location or decide to extend their trip once our expedition has concluded.

Kayaking*: Weather and water conditions will dictate our kayaking location, but if conditions hold we expect to use two locations. First we hope to be on Squam Lake, where we will learn and hone skills required for paddling on the river in flat water. The second location is the Connecticut River between Bath, NH and Lebanon, NH. This section of the river is mostly flat water, but does have some Class I moving water (defined as “fast moving water with ripples and small waves... risk to swimmers is light”, American Whitewater Association). Expected distance to paddle daily is 6-12 miles. Alternate locations include lakes throughout Northern New Hampshire. These spots have already been located and will be announced to participants as conditions arise.

Hiking: We may spend several days on day excursions hiking in or around the White Mountains depending on weather, conditions, and group needs; expected hiking distance is 5-8 miles.

Group Size: The trip consists of two facilitators from the Office of Experiential Education and up to ten participants from the Gettysburg College community; students, employees and families, and alumni of the college are all welcome.

Transportation: We provide transportation from Gettysburg to New Hampshire, for the duration of the trip, and back to New Hampshire at the trip’s conclusion. If you would like to use different transportation, please let us know so that we may discuss your options with you.

Accommodations and Meals: Accommodations are provided from the first through the last nights of the trip. We will stay in a house or cabin at our paddle location for the first few nights and in tents during our paddle on the Connecticut River or alternative locations. On the last night we will be staying in a hotel near Hanover, NH. We will cook our own food throughout and will be providing a final dinner in Hanover, NH.

Weather and Conditions: Spring weather in New England can vary dramatically. Expect daytime temperatures in the upper 50’s to low 70’s and nighttime temperatures to be in the 30’s or 40’s. The river is dam controlled, but high spring melts, rain, or an unscheduled release will cause our trip to reroute to the relative safety of New Hampshire lakes and mountains.

Physical Preparation: You should base your preparation on your personal needs. If you can, get out and walk, run, bike, or move any way you like to accustom yourself to the level of movement necessary for this trip. Any activity will help make the experience more enjoyable. Since we are kayaking, it is recommended (although not required) that you try kayaking at least once before going on the trip. GRAB offers lots of kayaking trips throughout the Spring semester, a great opportunity to get into a kayak.

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. 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 from the departure date, you will receive a full refund minus the $150 deposit. If cancellation occurs between 45-60 days prior to the departure date a 50% refund is available. If cancellation occurs between 30-45 days of the trip a 25% refund will be available. There will be no refunds for cancellations made within 30 days of the expedition.