Happy Holidays from your friends at IUOA!

The OA office is busy as we’re cleaning up for the Used Gear Sale this Saturday but we’re also working hard to revitalize this newsletter! Each month you can look forward to new stories including a featured trip leader, gear we love, and local news.

Please contact us with story suggestions, something you’ve written or even a trip report! Submissions can be sent to oareach@indiana.edu.

Thanks for a great 2013; we had tons of great trips run locally, and as far away as Zion NP, the Grand Canyon, Moab, the Rio Grande, Horseshoe Canyon, Wisconsin, Michigan, and the good ol’ Red River Gorge. Tell us where you want to go in 2014!

Try not to miss us too much over break...but if you do, Like & Follow us on the interweb. Also, be on the lookout for a route setting night in early January as well as spring day trips announcements.

Have a great break traveling and adventuring. Stay warm, and we’ll see you in the New Year!
Bouldering wall & gear shop hours

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*We’ll close Friday the 20th at 6 and reopen Monday Jan.13, at Noon.

Trip Leader Promotions

To Full: Meghan Ploch
Meghan is a grad student in SPEA who loves rock climbing! She’s a dedicated and creative leader and is looking to travel internationally with OA!

To Assist: Lynn Schulze
Lynn is a sophomore who you’ll see on climbing and water trips! Ask her what her favorite joke is. You won’t be disappointed.

Leader in Training
New Hires

Sophie Melnick
Ryan Hines
George Armstrong
Sean Buehler
Micahel Egge

Interested in leading with IUOA?

Becoming an OA leader begins with completing SPH-W 305 Introduction to Wilderness Leadership, a 2-credit course. You’ll learn basic leadership skills, trip planning, risk management, & technical skills over two weekends in the field. More info available at outdoors.indiana.edu.

Featured Trip Leader

Once a month we recognize one of our Trip Leaders for their hardwork and dedication.

Meet Adri Valtierra!

Everyone say hello to Adri! She was hired at OA in April 2013. Adri is a sophomore studying Psychology and minoring in Spanish from Griffith, IN. Adri started camping when she was 2. Her family was a large influence in this decision. Her first backpacking trip was in the Joyce-Kilmer National Forest, NC in spring 2010 with her high school. “I’ve spent my last 4 birthdays backpacking in/near the JK and I hope to spend many future birthdays the same way,” Adri said.

What is one of your favorite outdoor experiences?
My favorite outdoor memory is from a weekend camping trip in February a couple years ago. We were in Hell, MI, so it was freezing. Everyone was so cold and excited to be there that we were laughing pretty much the entire time and almost forgot how cold we were.

Tell us about your next adventure trip.
I’m going on a backpacking trip in Florida this winter break. I can’t believe it’s only a few weeks away now. A few months ago, I found out that an awesome thing exists: the Florida Trail. It’s 1,100 miles long and runs from the Keys to the panhandle, and lots of people thru-hike it in the winter. The trail is divided up into 18 sections and we are doing the last section: Blackwater. OA hopes to hike other sections in coming years, but this year’s trip would be the first, so everyone on the trip will be making OA history by pioneering this awesome “thru-hike”. Also, it’s Florida, which is so much warmer than Indiana in January.

What is your dream adventure?
I’ve always wanted to go to Australia. Ever since I was younger, I’ve been intrigued by the country and its outback and forests. I have always wanted to see the Great Barrier Reef. It just seems like an awesome place to explore.

Please share your most embarrassing moment...
There are so many! But let’s go with… At my high school graduation, after we get our diplomas, we sing the school song. When we get to a certain word in the song, we scream the word and everyone rips off their cap and throws them in the air. I was in the last row with parents sitting directly behind me, so when I tried to throw up my cap, I let go a second too late and whipped someone’s mom right in the face. I’m not sure how many people saw it, but I was mortified.
Gear Wish List

The gear we are wishing for this winter! From stocking stuffers to big ticket items, this is the gear that we find cleverly useful, or just plain cool.

**Patagonia** Down Hoody $249 Lightweight, windproof and extra warm, the Down Sweater Full-Zip Hoody is super warm!

**BioLite** Camp Stove $130 Will charge phones, camera batteries, lights and other electronics off-grid. Added bonus: this stove cooks food.

**GSI** Compact Scraper $4.95 Cooking in the backcountry can get messy. This scraper helps you eliminate the mess before grey watering.

**Black Diamond** Revolt $60 110 Lumens, multi-strength settings, and includes a USB charger!

**JL Waters** Paracord 550 $4.99 Good for setting up tarps, hammocks, and in a pinch: shoestrings.

**Aeropress** Coffee Maker $25.99 Coffee snobs unite over this single serving coffee press. It’s been compared to the brews the patented Clover produces! Mhm!!

Get Outside This Winter!

**Cross Country Skiing**
OA has skis, insulated boots, and brand new poles for you to take out. Check out the IU Golf Course—rolling hills and lots of space to put down fresh tracks.

**Downhill Skiing**
Plan a trip with friends and head down to Paoli Peaks or Perfect North for some Indiana downhill! Head down for your first time on the bunny hills, or knock off rust before heading out West!

**Snowshoeing**
If Bloomington is blessed with more than a foot of fabulous, white powder—stop by OA and grab snowshoes! Thermos of cocoa advised!

**Twinkle Lights**
Check out the lights on the square and some of the residential neighborhoods around Bloomington to see some beautiful twinkle lights. Create your own “Best of Bloomington” list.

**Trail Running**
Take advantage of the trails at Griffy or cruise out on 46 to run the 5-mile loop around Yellowwood Lake. It’s only cold if you stop running!
Winter Break Trip

Join us in pioneering a quest to hike the entire Florida National Scenic Trail (FT) on this multi-year adventure. This January we’ll tackle Section 18- Blackwater, spanning 44 miles through Florida’s largest state forest and along the banks of the Blackwater river. Enjoy a scenic forest of Atlantic White Cedar and Long Leaf Pine nestled among clay hills and Titi swamps as you trek north to the Alabama border.

Sign up by December 29th!

Spring Break Trips

Far below the rim and free from the crowds, our quiet, small group will journey deep into the heart of the canyon. Join us on an exceptional 5-day hike from high atop the rim to the dramatic contour of the canyon walls, along the Colorado River.

To sign up visit IUOA or Call 812.855.2231 outdoors.indiana.edu
Join us for a fun filled week of canoeing on the majestic Rio Grande river! Spend your days taking in the scenic views from the bow of a canoe and your nights mesmerized by the thousands of stars blanketing the night’s sky.

Join us for 6 days of rock climbing in Colorado! The renowned Shelf Road in the rockies has been called “a sport climber’s mecca” with nearly 1,000 bolted routes on high-quality, pocketed limestone! Be sure to sign up for this exciting trip!

To sign up visit IUOIA or Call 812.855.2231 outdoors.indiana.edu
Come join us in exploring a gem of the west, Zion National Park! Carry everything you need in your backpack as you Stare up at colorful sandstone cliffs and experience the depth and beauty of the canyons, all while sleeping under clear western skies.

To sign up visit IUOA or Call 812.855.2231 outdoors.indiana.edu

Used Gear Sale
Saturday December 14th
10-2 pm at IUOA

Swap, Sell, or Buy Gear!

More gear from OA leaders & friends

Black Diamond Gaiters - $10
Scarpa Double Plastic Boots - $30 or $40 depending on type
X Country ski poles - $5  X Country ski boots - $10
MSR Trekking poles - $5
Crampons - Switchblade $40, Sabretooth $20
Lowe Backpacks and backpack covers - $60 Great condition
Spray Jackets - $2  Coastal kayak skirts - $2
Neoprene whitewater skirts – $10 Excellent condition
NRS Wetsuits - $15  PFD’s - $10
NRS Float Bags – Center floats $4, All others $2
Wetsuit Booties - $5  Whitewater Helmets - $10
2 Burner Stoves - $25 if working, $5 if not
Climbing Shoes - $10
Fry Bake with lid - $5  Cook Sets – 3 piece - $5
Kayak pumps - $2