Ah, March! So glad you could make it and thank you for bringing Spring Break with you! Indiana University Outdoor Adventures’ 6 trips depart Friday and Saturday for the Rocky Mountains, Grand Canyon, Havasu Falls, Rio Grande (x2), and Zion National Park. Cheers to feeling warm under the sun in the very near future.

Share the best moments of your break with the OA crew via our new Instagram, @iu_outdooradventures. Check page 3 for info on the photo contest.

Already this month we’ve hosted a visit from alumn Bryan Brown, the first person to complete a solo kayak expedition of the entire length of the Colorado River—all 2,400 miles—totally unsupported. Thanks to Bryan for sharing his incredible journey.

Tickets are on sale now for the 12th Annual Banff Mountain Film Festival! This is an event you don’t want to miss!

Safe travels to all! And on the count of three... TGISB!
Meet a Trip Leader

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

Meet Brian Fitzgerald!
Everyone say hello to Brian! Brian is a senior from Washington, IN and is studying Political Science and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures with a minor in International Studies.

Where did you get your interest in the outdoors?
My interest in the outdoors actually began with IUOA through an IUBeginnings trip. My roommates and I decided we wanted to do something fun before diving right into college, and ‘shredding the gnar’ on the New River by signing up for our Cascadia trip was the perfect opportunity. After that, I was hooked. I loved seeing the world in its natural state and getting away from artificial life that can become suffocating at times.

What is your favorite outdoor moment/trip?
My goal in life is to see and experience as many diverse environments, cultures, and peoples as possible making it hard to choose a favorite anything. But, when in Egypt, I got the opportunity to camp with bedouins in the middle of the Sahara desert – an opportunity that just doesn’t come often. It was a sea of sand stretching for miles in every direction. No maps, no way of orienting oneself, but that was not an issue for our local guides. It was as if we were in their backyard and they knew every inch of it. We went from one oasis to another looking at old ruins and fossils of sea life from when the oceans used to cover the region millions of years ago in addition to swimming in salt lakes and hot springs after sand-boarding down massive, rolling dunes. At night, our dinner came out of an earthen oven and was prepared by the bedouins themselves. Never have I seen so many stars in the night’s sky. No question, my time in Siwa, Egypt is one of my favorite outdoor moments.

Tell us about your next adventure trip.
Well now, my next adventure trip after leading OA’s spring break trip to the Rio Grande will be our summer smash – Canoe Canada. I’ve been to Quetico Provincial Park twice now with IUOA as a participant and am excited to return, this time as a leader. In today’s world, nature doesn’t get more pristine than Quetico. The waters flowing through Quetico’s lakes are some of the last untainted natural waters in the world, allowing us to dip our nalgenes below the surface and drink water fresher than anything that ever came out of a Brita. Like our other adventure trips, Canoe Canada allows us to get away from technology for a short while and open our eyes to the world around us. Those looking to step out of their comfort zone and push their mental and physical boundaries should waste no time in making their down payment.

What is your dream adventure?
One day, I hope to make my way to the small island of Socotra, found just east of the Horn of Africa and south of the Arabian Peninsula. Socotra has been dubbed “the most alien-looking place on Earth” and boasts more than 700 endemic flora and fauna found only on Socotra, the most interesting of which is the Dragon’s Blood tree which resembles an umbrella and sees blood red sap ooze from its pores. Hiking, boating, and fishing in this so-called tropical desert would be wild.

Three interesting facts:
1. I’m a Master Mason in the Grand Masonic Lodge
2. I’m a sucker for love songs – R&B, grunge, blues, dirty, cheesy – doesn’t matter, I’ll love it.
3. Was Washington High School’s Class of 2010 Prom King.
Have you ever considered marrying your water bottle? Probably not, right? Well you better start sending out your “save the date” cards because in one year Americans spend as much on engagement rings as they do on disposable water bottles, about $11 billion dollars. Hopefully the ridiculousness of this fact has you considering a long term commitment with one of our shop’s reusable water bottles!

Here at IUOA we have a wide selection of Nalgene, Camelbak, and Klean Kanteen reusable water bottles. Ranging from $10 to $30 a piece, investing in a reusable water bottle could save you $550 per year (assuming you buy one disposable water bottle per day). Not only will you be saving money, but you will be avoiding consuming harmful chemicals that can leech from your disposable bottle into your water. How could anyone turn down that offer?

If you filled up one disposable water bottle a quarter of the way with oil, you could see how much oil it took to make that single bottle. If you are passionate about taking care of our planet, interested in saving money, or wanting to make healthier choices, a reusable water bottle just may be the answer you are looking for. Stop by the shop today to pick out which water bottle suits you best!

Source: http://www.wildmintshop.com/learn/tips-water-bottles.asp

Breaking News!!

That’s right! Indiana University Outdoor Adventures now has an instagram!

Follow us to see our adventures or better yet share yours!

Tag @iu_outdooradventures #iuoa

Are you coming on an OA Spring Break trip? Are you bringing a camera? Then you are well on your way as contestant for our Spring Break Photo Contest!!

Grand prize: 1 year FREE Bouldering wall pass
Submit pics via email &/OR Instagram.
Tag @iu_outdooradventures #iuoa OR email to oareach@indiana.edu by Monday 3/31.
Indiana University Outdoor Adventures’ 12th Annual
Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour
Saturday March 29th & Sunday March 30th

The Banff Mountain Film Festival, a program of The Banff Centre, is the largest and one of the most prestigious, mountain festivals in the world. Indiana University Outdoor Adventures is excited to bring the Banff Mountain Festival World Tour to Bloomington at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater on March 29th and 30th at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30. Experience different films each night!

Ticket are on sale now and can be purchased directly from the Buskirk-Chumley Theater (812)323-3020 or from IU Outdoor Adventures (812)855-2231. Both nights will include incredible prize giveaways from our amazing sponsors.

Ticket prices for one night of the event are:
$15 for general admission and free for children under 5 years old.

Is one night not enough? Buy a Festival Pass for entry to both Saturday & Sunday.
$27 for general admission festival pass.

For more information about ticket sales please contact the Buskirk-Chumley Theater at (812) 323-3020 or Indiana University Outdoor Adventures at (812) 855-2231.
Henry David Thoreau was born on July 12th, 1817, in Concord Massachusetts to two blue collar workers. He attended Harvard College and like many young people today floundered for a couple years after graduation until meeting his mentor Ralph Waldo Emerson. Emerson opened his eyes to transcendentalism and helped him grow into the influential man we know of today.

Thoreau strived to live an unconventional life, he wanted to live simply and appreciate the small things. He flipped the typical working man's schedule and attempted to work as little as possible, feeling that “the mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation” (“Henry David Thoreau” 2014). This large amount of leisure time allowed him plenty of opportunities to ponder philosophy and enjoy the natural world and its beauty. In 1854 he wrote the book, Walden; or Life in the Woods which described living close to nature and inspired naturalists, environmentalist and fellow writers (“Henry David Thoreau” 2014). This book and idea was very important because during this time period the wilderness was viewed as a problem, an obstacle to overcome. People didn’t go into the woods to commune with nature, they went into the woods to clear a plot of land for development. His feelings towards nature and the reason for wanting to live harmoniously with it are understood through his influential words.


The Best I Can Be

A reflection by Adri Valtierra on the Wilderness Education Association Conference held in February in Salt Lake City, Utah

When I first heard about the WEA Conference, I remember thinking that it would be really cool to go, but that it probably wouldn’t work out. Then suddenly, I was booking my flight to Salt Lake City and hashing out the details for the presentation that Emily Darnell, another leader at IUOA, and I had been working on for the conference.

It was great to spend several days with so many other people who are as passionate about outdoor education as we are. Although I had imagined more people at the conference, those that I had the opportunity to meet and talk to were really interesting. I enjoyed meeting students from different schools. Hearing about their experiences made me appreciate the opportunities we have at IUOA. I got to talk to a couple people who work with different wilderness therapy programs, which was really helpful and has given me a better idea of what I want to do after graduation. I would love to see future WEA conferences with a lot more students and more people in different outdoor fields.

I am really glad that Emily and I presented at the conference. It was an opportunity for us to practice our public speaking skills and I think there was a good discussion that came from our presentation. Another student presentation was about diversity in outdoor recreation and we got a chance to talk to the presenters and hear about what they have done in their community to work towards diversifying participation in outdoor recreation.

This conference helped me realize how much I have learned over the past few years and how much farther I have to go to be the best outdoor leader that I can be.
Canoe Canada with us!

Summer 2014: July 14-24

Few trips take you as deep into the wilderness as this unique Canadian expedition. We will drive up to Quetico Provincial Park and spend a week canoeing and camping within the pristine wilderness. Quetico has been recognized as one of the top 5 places in the world to paddle and is well known for its scenery and remoteness.

A typical day could include paddling, fishing, beautiful campsites, cliff jumping, waterfalls, picturesque sunsets, and water so clean you can drink directly from the lakes. The park also boasts a variety of wildlife from moose to bald eagles and is recognized worldwide for its incredible fishing.

Join us for this journey whose origins are rooted in the traditions of the French fur traders, the voyageurs.

Don’t miss out on IUOA’s 2014 Canoe Canada adventure! It promises to be the trip of a lifetime.

“You will get to enjoy picking blueberries from Blueberry Island, filleting the fish you caught yourself, hiking with a 60 lb canoe on your shoulders, and being three days away from civilization. I really think that everyone needs to experience perfection!” -Emily Darnell

Interested in more information?
Call-out Meeting:
Wednesday, March 26, 2014
IUOA (Eigenmann Hall) room #20

To sign up visit IUOA or Call 812.855.2231
outdoors.indiana.edu
Indiana University Outdoor Adventures    March 2014

100 Days On The Mighty Colorado River

IUOA had the pleasure of hosting alum Byran Brown who shared his incredible story about his 2,400 mile Solo Kayak Odyssey of the Colorado River. With beautiful jutting canyon walls surrounding him everyday, Brown made this historic descent in honor of his brother, in support of Muscular Dystrophy and for Environmental awareness. Brown described how this was a trip he dreamed about for 41 years, planned for 7 months and executed in 4. Over his 2,400 mile journey, he crossed 6 big whitewater regions, 24 large dams and 400 diversion dams, noting the environmental impact humans have made. Throughout his presentation, Brown encouraged us to dream big and to be creative in our adventures. He told us, “find something that lights you up and make it happen.” Brown left us all inspired to step out of our comfort zone and begin our own adventures.

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MONOLITHIC MARCH SALE

60% off
All summer tank tops

50% off
All other summer apparel on sales rack-shorts, t-shirts, capris, hoodies and jackets

40% off
All winter apparel-jackets, pants, base layers, fleece, flannels, hats and gloves

30% off
All Rain Gear-Jackets and pants
Staff Directory

Bouldering Wall & Gear Shop Hours

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Where are we...?

Eigenmann Hall, Room 020
1900 E 10th Street
Bloomington, IN 47406

Submit an Article

Want to be featured in the newsletter? Submit an OA trip review, a gear review, a skills how-to, etc. to oareach@indiana.edu.

Connect with Us!

Trip announcements, shop sales, route setting dates, class openings, etc!

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