

SPRING GAP SEMESTER: SOUTHWEST ITINERARY

Day	Date	Activity	Lodging
1	February 13	Students Arrive in San Antonio	Cibolo Gardens Nature Preserve
2	February 14	Orientation	Cibolo Gardens Nature Preserve
3	February 15	Orientation	Cibolo Gardens Nature Preserve
4	February 16	Orientation	Cibolo Gardens Nature Preserve
5	February 17	Travel/Prep	Cottonwood Campground
6	February 18	Canoe Big Bend National Park	Backcountry
7	February 19	Canoe Big Bend National Park	Backcountry
8	February 20	Canoe Big Bend National Park	Backcountry
9	February 21	Canoe Big Bend National Park	Backcountry
10	February 22	Canoe Big Bend National Park	Backcountry
11	February 23	Canoe Big Bend National Park	Backcountry
12	February 24	Canoe Big Bend National Park	Rio Grande Village Campground
13	February 25	Travel	Franklin Mountains State Park
14	February 26	Prep for Backpacking	Franklin Mountains State Park
15	February 27	Backpack Coronado National Forest	Backcountry
16	February 28	Backpack Coronado National Forest	Backcountry
17	March 1	Backpack Coronado National Forest	Backcountry
18	March 2	Backpack Coronado National Forest	Backcountry
19	March 3	Backpack Coronado National Forest	Backcountry
20	March 4	Backpack Coronado National Forest	Backcountry
21	March 5	Backpack Coronado National Forest	Catalina State Park
22	March 6	Prep	Catalina State Park
23	March 7	Climb Cochise Stronghold	AZ Group Site
24	March 8	Climb Cochise Stronghold	AZ Group Site
25	March 9	Climb Cochise Stronghold	AZ Group Site
26	March 10	Climb Cochise Stronghold	AZ Group Site
27	March 11	Travel	Gallo Campground
28	March 12	Chaco Culture National Park	Gallo Campground
29	March 13	Chaco Culture National Park	Gallo Campground
30	March 14	Chaco Culture National Park	Gallo Campground
31	March 15	Travel/ Prep	Green River State Park
32	March 16	Prep for Canoeing	Green River State Park
33	March 17	Canoe Labyrinth Canyon	Backcountry
34	March 18	Canoe Labyrinth Canyon	Backcountry
35	March 19	Canoe Labyrinth Canyon	Backcountry
36	March 20	Canoe Labyrinth Canyon	Backcountry
37	March 21	Canoe Labyrinth Canyon	Backcountry

38	March 22	Canoe Labyrinth Canyon	Backcountry
39	March 23	Canoe Labyrinth Canyon	Groupsite Moab
40	March 24	Prep for Backpacking	Groupsite Moab
41	March 25	Travel	Needles District Campsite
42	March 26	Backpack Canyonlands National Park	Backcountry
43	March 27	Backpack Canyonlands National Park	Backcountry
44	March 28	Backpack Canyonlands National Park	Groupsite Moab
45	March 29	Prep	Groupsite Moab
46	March 30	Moab Exploration	Groupsite Moab
47	March 31	Moab Exploration	Groupsite Moab
48	April 1	Moab Exploration	Sand Creek Park
49	April 2	Prep for WFR	Goose Island Campground
50	April 3	Wilderness First Responder	Goose Island Campground
51	April 4	Wilderness First Responder	Goose Island Campground
52	April 5	Wilderness First Responder	Goose Island Campground
53	April 6	Wilderness First Responder	Goose Island Campground
54	April 7	Wilderness First Responder	Goose Island Campground
55	April 8	Wilderness First Responder	Goose Island Campground
56	April 9	Wilderness First Responder	Goose Island Campground
57	April 10	Travel/Prep	Ken's Lake Campground
58	April 11	Whitewater Raft Cataract Canyon	Backcountry
59	April 12	Whitewater Raft Cataract Canyon	Backcountry
60	April 13	Whitewater Raft Cataract Canyon	Backcountry
61	April 14	Whitewater Raft Cataract Canyon	Backcountry
62	April 15	Whitewater Raft Cataract Canyon	Groupsite Moab
63	April 16	Travel/Prep	Sand Creek RV Park
64	April 17	Backpack Grand Staircase Escalante/ Capstone	Backcountry
65	April 18	Backpack Grand Staircase Escalante/ Capstone	Backcountry
66	April 19	Backpack Grand Staircase Escalante/ Capstone	Backcountry
67	April 20	Backpack Grand Staircase Escalante/ Capstone	Backcountry
68	April 21	Backpack Grand Staircase Escalante/ Capstone	Sand Creek RV Park
69	April 22	Travel/Final Ceremony	Salt Lake City
70	April 23	Departures from Salt Lake City	

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

CANOE BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

Your course will begin with orientation in one of our nation's most pristine and least visited National Parks: Big Bend. Day hikes and group activities abound as you acclimate to your surroundings and your fellow teammates, and you learn critical outdoor skills necessary for the adventure ahead. Following this multi-day orientation, you will then set off on a canoeing adventure through the national park. With the Rio Grande guiding your way, you will have an extended backcountry adventure as you experience the very best of the Chihuahuan Desert.

BACKPACK CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST IN ARIZONA

From the canoeing adventures of Big Bend in Texas, we will head north to test our backcountry skills on foot. Backpacking is a springtime activity in Arizona, where the desert will be coming to life. Spend 7 days exploring national forests, marveling at the desert landscape and becoming proficient in the outdoor practice of backpacking.

WALK WHERE THEY WALKED - ANCIENT PEOPLES

A critical learning objective of this course will be to understand the ancient peoples that lived in this region. Through exploration, hiking, visiting national monuments and historical parks, we will study the ancient Anasazi people and those that came after them.

CANOE LABYRINTH CANYON IN SOUTHERN UTAH

As we learn about the ancient people of the Southwest, we will also take our knowledge on an extended backcountry adventure down the Green River in Utah to explore Labyrinth Canyon. The whispers of the ancient people will draw you in this 7 day backcountry adventure. There you might see ancient dwellings and petroglyphs from times long gone. Towering canyon walls and this unique desert ecosystem will excite your senses as you paddle from one river camp to the next.

BACKPACK CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK / MOAB

Out of the water once more, the group will backpack one of the most unique areas that Canyonlands National Park has to offer- The Needles District. Here the group will focus on their hard skills, enjoying the beautiful desert landscape, and catch some of the best star gazing in the West. After a few days in the BC, we will then travel into the town of Moab to explore Arches National Park and prep for our next backpacking section.

WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER CERTIFICATION

This 74-hour course will be conducted by AdventureMed, a long-time partner of WA. The course will cover a wide range of topics relating to medical emergencies in the wilderness and decision making, as well as practical simulations. Students will earn their WFR and CPR certification, both valid for 2 years.

WHITEWATER RAFT CATARACT CANYON

Put an exclamation mark on your 70 day adventure with a multi-day whitewater rafting trip through the fast water of Cataract Canyon. Having mastered the flatwater of Big Bend and Labyrinth Canyon, now you will have the opportunity to learn the skill of whitewater rafting. Spring water flows will make for an exciting 5 days of fun and exhilaration as we conquer well known class III-V rapids.

BACKPACK GRAND STAIRCASE ESCALANTE

One of our national treasures is the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. Here we will have an opportunity to do a classic backpacking route through the monument. This ecosystem will provide an amazing opportunity to learn about the flora and the fauna of the region.

PLACE/ACTIVITY-BASED LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

Our program will provide an amazing education in outdoor leadership. Students, through their activities and the skills they learn and practice along the way, will become masters of outdoor skills. Still, outdoor education is not our only goal. Our students receive texts and readings that will become the themes of their course. It is our hope that they will grow through group work, challenging discussion, personal reflection and a capstone project that demonstrates the growth they have achieved during their semester.