



# **Arkansas Regional Adventure Programming Conference**

**April 20-22, 2018**

**Information Packet**

## **About ARAP**

The Arkansas Regional Adventure Programming conference is a student-oriented programming weekend for individuals who want to connect with other outdoor education enthusiasts. Conference attendees from the state of Arkansas can share ideas and practices while attendees from neighboring states can learn what Arkansas has to offer. Whether you are a part of a seasoned outdoor program or thinking about starting a program, Arkansas Regional Adventure Programming Conference is for you!

## **Historical Information**

Colleges and universities in the state of Arkansas have created and implemented outdoor recreation programs through their campus recreation or academic departments for over a decade. In addition, outdoor programs from all around the nation conduct outdoor recreational trips to Arkansas to climb, paddle, cycle, and hike. With so many new programs starting and existing outdoor programs visiting the state, the need to bring programmers together was a necessity. The outdoor directors of The University of Arkansas and Lyon College met with the managers of Horseshoe Canyon Ranch to plan an educational conference at one of the premier climbing destinations in the United States in the spring of 2012. That conference was such a success they decided to host another conference in 2013. Again, the conference was a success and grew to 125 participants from 11 different states. The educational experience for conference attendees from the state of Arkansas and neighboring states is invaluable for these students. It allows Arkansas attendees to share ideas and practices while attendees from neighboring states can learn what Arkansas has to offer.

## **Description of the Area**

Arkansas is home to some of the greatest outdoor recreation opportunities in the country. Whether you are interested in rock climbing, mountain biking, canoeing, or hiking, Arkansas has ample resources to meet the needs of every outdoor enthusiast. The conference is held at Horseshoe Canyon Ranch (HCR), nestled in the heart of Newton County. HCR is recognized internationally for its renowned Arkansas sandstone with over 450 bolted climbing routes and over 400 bouldering problems. HCR is also adjacent to the Buffalo National River, one of the few free flowing rivers and the first National River in the United States. The Buffalo River is 135 miles in length and winds through massive limestone bluffs and historical sites that have created Ozark traditions. Arkansas is also home to the Buffalo River Trail and Ozark Highlands Trail which have over 250 miles of scenic day hikes and extended backpacking opportunities. The conference site is also less than 25 miles from one of Arkansas IMBA designated "EPIC" mountain bike trails: the Upper Buffalo Mountain Bike Trail System. This trail system has close to 50 miles of trail which winds around the headwaters of the Buffalo National River.

## Conference Schedule (at a glance)

### **Thursday/Friday, April 19/20**

Pre-Conference Workshops  
LNT Trainer Course (Thurs & Friday)  
Self-directed activities  
Conference welcome and dinner  
Social and music

### **Saturday, April 21**

Yoga & Trail Run  
Breakfast

### **(Saturday cont.)**

Presentations and workshops  
Dutch oven cook-off and dinner  
Film showing brought to you by OZ Trails  
Gear Raffle

### **Sunday, April 22**

Post Conference Activities  
Outdoor bouldering competition  
Self-directed hikes, climbing, and more!

## Pricing

Early bird registration (*by March 30, 2018*)  
Professional-\$75      Student-\$60

Normal registration (*after March 30, 2018*)  
Professional-\$90      Student-\$75

## How to Register

Conference registration can be completed on the ARAP website by clicking [HERE](#). Click “How to Register” and you are well on your way!

Have questions? Feel free to contact Mike Hoover [mdhoover@uark.edu](mailto:mdhoover@uark.edu), Kenny Williams [kennethw@uark.edu](mailto:kennethw@uark.edu), or call 479.575.6865.

## How to Get There

Sprawled across a lush valley and surrounded by large sandstone bluffs sits Horseshoe Canyon Ranch, located off Hwy 74 west of Jasper, Arkansas. Located next to the beautiful Buffalo National Wilderness Area, this remote and rugged part of northwest Arkansas is unique both in culture and landscape. The Ranch is 20 miles south of Harrison, AR. and 68 miles north of Russellville on state highway 7 in Northwest Arkansas.

## What to Bring

Pack as if going on a camping trip because you are!

- Tent
- Water Bottle (potable water available at campsite)
- Dishes/Utensils
- Meals (Lunch Saturday, Dutch Oven Ingredients, Breakfast & Lunch Sunday)
- Layers
- Headlamp
- Sleeping Bag, Sleeping Pad, Tent or other Shelter
- Notepad/pen for taking notes

**Not an exhaustive list, use good judgment and check the weather forecast.**

## What is Provided?

- Dinner Friday evening
- Friday evening social
- Breakfast Saturday morning
- Dutch oven cook-off and potluck Saturday night (bring a dish to cook and we will all share)!
- Great presentations from your peers at outdoor recreation and education programs from across the country
- Amazing adventure film(s) Saturday night
- Great raffle prizes/giveaways from our sponsors

## Pre & Post Conference Session/Activities

### **Thursday - Friday (April 20-21, 2018)**

#### ***Adventure Subaru LNT Trainer Course***

Date/Time: Thursday - Friday, April 20-21, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Cost: FREE – participants must apply for a LNT registration scholarships by April 6!

### **Friday and Sunday (April 20 or 22, 2018)**

#### ***Self-Guided Activities – NEW FOR 2018!***

The ARAP planning committee has recognized the difficulty in planning an exact arrival time to HCR, and the challenges with being able to commit to pre-conference workshops/sessions. Therefore, we are encouraging all ARAP attendees to plan ahead and prepare for their own activities prior to the conference kick-off on Friday. Here are a few examples of great things to do at and around Horseshoe Canyon Ranch and the Buffalo River!

1. Bring canoes, kayaks, or SUPs and float the Buffalo River!
  - a. Ponca to Steel (short option) or Steel to Kyles (longer option)
2. Hike Indian Creek (across from HCR!)
3. Climb and/or Boulder HCR
4. Play Frisbee golf at HCR
5. Mountain bike NWA or the Buffalo River Headwaters
6. Hike to Hawksbill Crag or Lost Valley (both a very short drive from HCR)

### **Sunday (April 22, 2018)**

#### ***ARAP Outdoor Bouldering Competition***

Date/Time: Sunday, April 22, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

Cost: FREE

Want to test your skills against others at the conference? Sign up for the Outdoor Bouldering Competition. The competition will be a red-point style comp with more points awarded for flash attempts. Prizes will be available for categories at various skill levels, so don't be intimidated if you aren't crushing double digits! Join the crew and have some fun before your drive home. More information available on scoring and comp format at the registration table. Contact Kenny Williams with any questions at [kennethw@uark.edu](mailto:kennethw@uark.edu).