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Subject: 🍁🍂 FALL BREAK CLIMBING TRIP TO THE RED RIVER GORGE 🍁🍂
Date: September 25, 2023 at 4:07 PM
To: ClimbingTeam@princeton.edu ClimbingTeam@Princeton.EDU

TL;DR fill out [THIS](#) interest form by **SUNDAY (10/1) at 5 PM** if you want to come to the Red over Fall break to lead climb. This form **DOES NOT** guarantee a spot. Also, go to the summary section at the end of the email to get a summary of the **MUST KNOW** details :)

Hello Climbers!!! 🍁🍂

Fall break is only a few weeks away, and it's time to start planning the Red River Gorge climbing trip!!!

For those of you who have been before, please contain your excitement. For those who haven't been lucky enough yet, and are wondering, what is the Red? Let me introduce you:

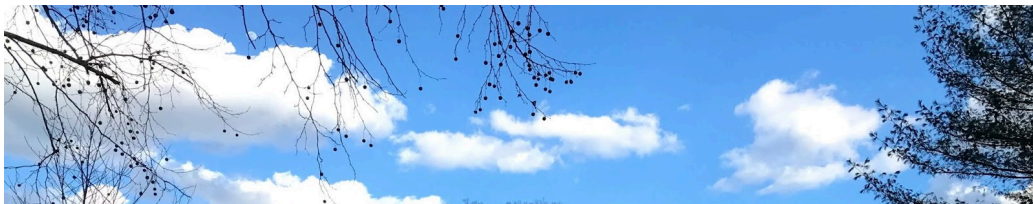
What is the Red?

The **Red River Gorge** is a world-class climbing destination located in rural Slade, Kentucky. Its excellent sandstone sport climbing has drawn the team down for more than a decade, and it has become tradition to spend up to a week there over fall and spring breaks. As midterms wrap up, we carpool down to Kentucky and set up camp at Miguel's Pizza for anywhere between 5 and 8 days. During this time, we get to spend the days climbing at beautiful crags and spend the nights eating delicious home-cooked meals under the stars.

Here are some pics from our past trips to help you envision it:









CLIMBING: This trip is primarily a lead climbing trip. Lead climbing differs from the top rope climbing we do at the OA Wall in that you put the rope up as you go. If you don't yet know how to lead, that doesn't limit you from the trip. We will offer a **lead clinic**

beforehand to teach new climbers that we expect all newbies to attend. However, since we don't practice lead climbing as much at the gym (ie people are generally less experienced in it), and it has more risk than top rope climbing in a gym, **we will have to balance experience in leading with interest to learn (and may have to limit the size of the trip based on the number of experienced climbers we have)**. If you do want to go on the trip, make sure you can **climb at least a 5.8 in our gym**. The routes at the Red range from 5.5 to 5.14, but outdoor climbing is harder, and we want to make sure people have things they can climb!

You MUST attend the lead clinic if you don't have any lead climbing experience in order to go on the trip

Information about the lead clinic will be coming soon! It will either be this weekend (9/30-10/1) or the one after (10/7-10/8). The clinic is a several hour commitment with mandatory sessions both Saturday and Sunday and you'll sign up on MyPrinceton.

LODGING: For lodging, we camp in the fields behind Miguel's Pizza, a famous pizzeria in the Gorge that has hosted climbers for more than four decades. Miguel's Pizza offers a pavilion for us to cook at, bathrooms with sinks and toilets, a gear shop to buy climbing gear, showers, and a heated basement for us to spend late nights. Camping costs \$3.50 per person per night with reservations ahead of time (just like a day or so beforehand). It can get pretty cold at night, so be sure to bring a warm sleeping bag, a sleeping pad, and many layers!

COOKING: Most of us figure out food in cooking groups: in these groups of 2 to 5, we buy groceries, cook our meals, and split the costs for food. Breakfast and dinner are cooked under the pavilion right next to Miguel's campground using portable stoves, and lunch is generally a packed meal eaten at the crag. While some go gourmet for dinner, others have been known to subsist solely on Campbell's chunky soup to save cash. Miguel's also sells great pizza (even better after a long day of climbing), breakfast burritos, and some other stuff. The cost of food will depend on your group.

CARS: Slade, KY is 10.5 hours away, so we carpool together in groups of 3 to 5. We will leave on Saturday (10/14) of midterms week, and return sometime between Thursday (10/19) and Saturday (10/21) of Fall Break. **Cars and the number of seats available are one of the other big limiting factors (in terms of trip size) so let us know if you have one!** Gas will be split among everyone except those who provide cars, and is typically \$70-\$100 over the whole trip.

If this sounds like the Fall Break trip for you, fill out the interest form [here](#)

[Summary: Important Details](#)

- The Red offers a bunch of lead climbing in Slade Kentucky (10 hours away)
 - Leaving Saturday (10/14) and returning Thurs(10/19)-Sat(10/21) (timing will depend on what the cars agree on)

- If you haven't lead climbed before, make sure you can climb at least a **5.8** at our gym and attend the **LEAD CLINIC**
- Be prepared to camp behind Miguel's pizza 🍕
- Cooking, camping, and cars are all done in groups
- We will have to prioritize people with outdoor experience, gear, and cars to make sure that the trip can run smoothly and safely
- Fill out the interest form ([found here](#)) by **SUNDAY (10/1) at 5 PM** if you are interested
 - Please be aware that it is non-binding and it doesn't guarantee you a spot
 - We will coordinate groups and spots once we get more information

Much love <3

Anna Pinkerton