















2023 Royal Gorge  Bighorn Sheep Canyon 
Overnight 







MAY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 
14 	15	16	17	18	19	20 
21 	22	23	24	25	26	27 
28 	29	30	31			








JUNE

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JULY

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AUG

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SEP

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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3 	4	5	6	7	8	9

Don't see a trip that fits your schedule?

Call us, we can set up a trip for your group! We can almost any date or group size, 719-333-2940.

Take advantage of your military discount! All of our trips are 15-50% less than any private outfitter. We provide transportation which saves you even more.

Eligible users include: Active duty and retired military, Reservists, NAF and DoD government employees, USAFA Contractors and their immediate family members and up to five guests per card holder.

AIR FORCE



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
PROGRAM

WHITE WATER RAFTING 2023



United States Air Force Academy
Outdoor Recreation Center, Bldg 5136

719.333.2940/4475

10FSS.OAP@us.af.mil

USAFAsupport.com

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday; 8:30 am–5:30 pm

Wednesday; 8:30 am–1:30 pm

Friday; 8:30 am–6 pm

Saturday; 7 am–3 pm

Sundays and Holidays; closed



white water

Get ready for adventure! Show the river who's the boss as you steer your raft through some of the best white water in the country. Watch those rocks! Paddle forward, now back, lean left, listen to the guide, work together. Nothing presents such a challenge or gives a sense of accomplishment as much as conquering the river, and you can do it with the Outdoor Adventure Program. Surround yourself with the beautiful scenery, the hot sun and the cool water. Cruise past bighorn sheep and towering red cliffs. This is getting back to basics. You against the river. Do you have what it takes? We think so. In fact, we know so. OAP has been delivering the experience of a lifetime for over 30 years and now it's time to let us take you. Are you ready?

Trips include transportation to and from the river, wet suit, helmet, personal flotation device, splash jacket, and a hearty, delicious lunch. All rafts are selfbailing. Guides are state certified with rescue training and First Aid and CPR certificates.



Trip details: show time for ALL trips is 6:45 a.m. and all trips depart (rain or shine) from the north east side of Building 5136 (Outdoor Recreation Center). All participants will be required to read and sign a release of liability before departure. Drugs and alcohol are not permitted on any of our trips. Intoxicated persons will be refused without refund. Our primary concern is for your safety. You will be given a comprehensive safety briefing before launching, so please listen carefully. Minimum weight for all participant is 50 pounds, minimum age is seven years old. A changing room is provided at the Outdoor Recreation Center.



The origins of the Arkansas River begin high in the Rocky Mountains near Leadville, Colorado. 1469 miles long, the river is the sixth longest in the United States.

West of Cañon City, the Arkansas River cuts through a high plateau forming a spectacular steep-walled gorge that is over a thousand feet deep. Called the Royal Gorge it is considered a world wonder, and is often referred to as the Grand Canyon of the Arkansas River.

In 1877, silver was discovered on the upper waters of the Arkansas which led to the start of wars between two competing Royal Gorge railroads. The companies dynamited competitor's railway efforts, exchanged gunshots and hired renowned gunmen of the west for defense. Later, in 1929, Cañon City authorized building the Royal Gorge Bridge, which, at 955 feet (291 m) above the river, held the record for the highest suspension bridge in the world until 2003.

The Royal Gorge has amazing history and breathtaking views. Come join the USAFA Outdoor Adventure Program for rafting trips on the Arkansas River that will be remembered!



All trips meet and depart from the east side of the Outdoor Recreation Center (where the camping trailers are parked) at 6:45 am. and return about 5 pm.

All rafting trips include: Transportation from the Academy to the Arkansas River and back, all rafting equipment and required personal gear, lunch, permits and guides. Our primary concern is for your safety. All guides are state-certified and hold a First Aid and CPR certification.

Beginner / Family Trips

Bighorn Sheep Canyon - Class II-III

Named for the numerous herds of bighorn sheep in the area, the trip begins in easy water to give us time to build confident paddle crews, while enjoying the views of the canyon. We will stop riverside for a delicious buffet lunch and then climb back into the rafts for more excitement! This trip has the best white water in Bighorn Sheep Canyon with rapids like: 3 Rocks, Sharks Tooth and Spike Buck to name a few, while still having tranquil and calm areas to relax and enjoy the magnificent scenery. Remember to keep an eye open for local bighorn sheep roaming the hillside. This is the perfect trip for any group, family, or first-timers looking to pack scenery, wildlife and adventure into one amazing rafting experience that's not soon forgotten!

\$119/adult \$109/child; ages 7-12 and 50+ lbs

(Avg. private outfitter cost: \$150/person w/o transportation)



Browns Canyon - Class III

Available for private parties of 10 or more!

This exciting full day trip near Buena Vista combines the splendid white water of this remote canyon, with spectacular views of the Sawatch Range. Famous for its perfect balance between exciting rapids and sustained calm stretches, you will find yourself completely surrounded by remarkable scenery only Colorado can offer. We'll stop riverside for a delicious buffet lunch and then jump back into the rafts for the excitement of the waiting rapids. Don't let the views distract you as you raft your way through awesome Class III rapids such as Zoom Flume, Big Drop and the Widow Maker. This section of this beautiful, remote canyon is great for families, groups, first-timers and even experienced white water rafting enthusiasts. Call to schedule your trip!

\$139/adult, \$105/child; ages 8+ and 50+ lbs

(Avg. private outfitter cost: \$150/person w/o transportation)



Adventure River Trips

The Royal Gorge - Class IV-V

The Royal Gorge is our most popular trip! The Gorge is also considered one of the top 10 white water rafting runs in the country. Start off in the bighorn sheep section to get the blood moving before lunch. Then after a hearty lunch, we launch into the beauty of the Gorge. Travel under one of the world's highest suspension bridges during the Royal Gorge's seven miles of thunder, but don't look too long. Rapids such as Sledge Hammer, Wall Slammer and the infamous Sunshine Falls will require all of your attention. This exhilarating trip is recommended for experienced Class IV-V rafters or adventurers in good physical shape! This trip is not for the timid and swimming ability is required.

\$139/person; ages 16+ and 50+ lbs

(Avg. private outfitter cost: \$170/person w/o transportation)

Special Group Arrangements

The OAP is not limited to just the trips that are listed in this brochure. The OAP can accommodate almost any date for any desired trip. Although all of the white water rafting trips we offer are available, we suggest you contact us so we can best accommodate all the dynamics of your party. All trips are subject to change due to river conditions and weather.

Cancellations/Changes

Cancellation within one week of the activity date will not be refunded. Payment will be refunded for military commitments or medical emergencies, provided the participant presents documentation upon request. Trips are subject to change/cancellation due to water levels or safety concerns.

Call to ask about *Recharge for Resiliency* discounts!

NOTICE: A High Risk Activities Worksheet (AF 4391) is required to participate in ANY high risk activity, for ALL Active Duty Personnel. It is required to be completed by Active Duty Personnel before they participate in most of our Outdoor Rec Adventure Programs. This responsibility lies solely on the Active Duty participant.



Overnight River Trips

Includes: All rafting gear for both days (helmet, PFD, wetsuit, splash top), tent, sleeping bag, sleeping pad, two lunches, one dinner and breakfast, and transportation.

Adventure Overnight Trip June 17-18

On Day one you'll get warmed up on Class II-III water. Come into camp and have a hearty dinner made by our staff. Camp out and share stories next to the fire and get ready for the next day of adrenaline filled Rapids! Paddle a guided raft down the Royal Gorge!

\$290/person; ages 16+ and 50+ lbs

(Avg. private outfitter cost: \$400/person w/o transportation)

Family Overnight Trip July 15-16

On Day One you'll control your own 'Ducky', an inflatable kayak, down Class II water. Come into camp and have a hearty dinner made by our staff. Camp out and share stories next to the fire and get ready for the next day of Family fun! Day Two, paddle a guided raft through our Family Class section of whitewater!

\$270/adult, \$220 ages 7-11 and 50+ lbs

(Avg. private outfitter cost: \$400/person w/o transportation)

Custom Overnight Rafting Combo Trips

Dates by reservation only.

We often have groups who want their own private overnight trips for their family, friends, co-workers, or other groups. You can schedule these with us throughout the season and pick and choose the days, activities and river sections you want to raft. Choose climbing, zip-lining, or duckying to add a new flavor to the trip, or raft both days. Everything else normally included in our overnights also comes with these trips. These need to be scheduled at least 3 weeks ahead of time, but the sooner you can get it scheduled, the more dates we will have available!

\$290/person; ages dependent on activity and 50+lbs

Please refer to the full OAP refund/cancellation policy for overnight and custom trips at: usafasupport.com/outdoor-recreation/

To make your trip enjoyable...

OAP Provides:

- ◇ Wet Suit
- ◇ Splash Jacket
- ◇ Personal Flotation Device
- ◇ Helmet

All trips go rain or shine. Dress for the weather. Non-cotton layers are recommended for cooler days and those easily chilled.

What To Bring:

- ✓ Swim Suit or Shorts
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ River Shoes or Sneakers
- ✓ (no flipflops or Crocs)
- ✓ Shirt (non-cotton, Under Armor® works great)
- ✓ Socks (wool or polypropylene)
- ✓ Change of clothes for ride home
- ✓ Plastic bag (for wet clothing)
- ✓ Towel
- ✓ Water bottle
- ✓ Day pack (stays in vehicle)

Additional Comfort Items:

- ✓ Sunglasses (with retaining strap)
- ✓ Lip Balm (with sun screen)
- ✓ Camera (disposable, waterproof)

NOTE: Wool or synthetic blends are recommended for clothing. Try to avoid cotton fabrics; they lose their insulation value when wet. Outdoor clothing should be non-binding (polypropylene or a synthetic blend is preferred for inner clothing needed on the cooler trips, or if you are easily susceptible to cold).

HIGH WATER REGULATIONS: During high water season, typically at the end of May beginning of June, rafters must be a minimum of 12 years old and 90 lbs. In extreme high water (over 3200 cfs), the Royal Gorge is closed and rafters must be (above 4500 cfs) 16 years old and 90 lbs or more on all other sections of the river.



Ducky Days

Burn those hot July and August Days away on the river in your own inflatable kayak. 'Duckies' as we call them are one of the most fun ways to experience the river without needing a great deal of experience. We will take you to a couple rapids and fun float the sections. A great way to float away the day!

\$109/person, includes lunch. Minimum of six people, maximum of 10. Minimum age of 12.