



Denison Outdoor Orientation Application

Questions?
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Deadline: June 2, 2008

The Denison Outdoor Orientation (DOO) provides an opportunity for approximately 48 students in the class of 2012 to engage in a unique, challenging and fun transition to Denison by backpacking through the Otter Creek Wilderness Area in the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. There, in groups of eight, each led by a faculty-student staff team, you will traverse trails extending for 15 to 17 miles across forested hills and valleys—more spectacular terrain than many associate with the area. The three days on the trail will afford you ample opportunities for informal education, fellowship and recreation, in addition to learning more about the Denison community you are entering.

While you are responsible for providing much of your personal gear, DOO will provide backpacks, tents, sleeping bags, pads, etc. for those who need them. The basic schedule has you arriving on campus Friday afternoon, August 22; on-campus preparation and departure, August 23; on the trail in West Virginia, August 23-26; return to campus, August 26. There is a charge of \$200 for this program; Pell grant recipients who wish to participate may have their fees waived. For further information, consult the program brochure or the First-Year Program Office or website. Those accepted in the program will be notified no later than July 1, 2008.



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Outdoor Orientation Application for the Class of 2012

Please print

Student's Name _____ Phone _____

Summer Address _____

E-mail _____ Social Security # _____

Please respond to the following questions on no more than two double-spaced pages.

1. Please indicate your hiking and backpacking experience and your general level of comfort in the wilderness. [Note: Prior experience is not a prerequisite for selection.]
2. A large part of DOO is the group bonding experience. As you hike, camp and otherwise live with your group for four days in the woods, you will come to rely upon your fellow group members for what they can contribute. Specifically, what strengths and attributes can you bring to improve your group's experience on the trail? Consider the whole range from tangible outdoor skills to social dynamics.

Respond to ONE of the following two questions:

3. Cell phones are a ubiquitous aspect of life, but some outdoor recreation experts feel that they should be banned from wilderness areas. Please describe what you see as some reasons why cell phones should, and should not, be allowed in remote natural areas.
4. The National Park system was established to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to visit and appreciate our country's natural beauty. However, for people with disabilities, visiting our national parks is often made difficult or even impossible by the lack of access. Do you think we should provide access for the disabled to visit remote areas of our national parks? And if so, how should we balance these services with the goal of preserving pristine wilderness?