

May 2013

Dear Member of the Class of 2017:

Welcome to Yale! Before the excitement that is college begins, we invite you to join us for an experience that for many students is one of the most formative and important of their time at Yale. On a Yale Freshmen Outdoor Orientation Trip, you will sleep under the stars, share stories and songs around the campfire with some of your new classmates, and create a new tight-knit community of friends. Join us!

In 1984, a group of Yale undergraduates started **FOOT**-- Freshman Outdoor Orientation Trips! The trips have continued ever since and are hugely popular. You will bond with some of your new classmates, enjoy the Northeastern landscape, and spend time discussing what life at Yale will be like. Two upper-class students lead each group of 8-10 freshmen. The groups hike about six or seven miles a day over hilly and sometimes mountainous terrain. However, you do **NOT** need to be an experienced backpacker to participate in FOOT. You should be in reasonable physical condition since you will be challenging yourself on the trail. But more important, we ask you to come with an open mind and a positive attitude about trying new experiences. You will find the hike both exciting and rewarding!

We offer **6-day trips August 17-23** in New York's Catskill Mountains, the White Mountains of New Hampshire, the Green Mountains of Vermont, and the Berkshires in Massachusetts. These regions are all a several hours drive north from New Haven. You need to arrive at Yale on **Saturday, August 17**, around **2:00 PM** where you will meet your leaders and other members of your group. You will be housed and fed for one night on campus, and then, early the next morning, you will travel by bus to the trail. You will return to Yale on Friday, August 23, in time for the campus orientation.

We also offer **4-day trips August 19-23** in southern Vermont, and on the Appalachian Trail in the Berkshires in Massachusetts and in western Connecticut into New York. You need to arrive in New Haven the afternoon of **Monday, August 19**, around **2:00 PM**.

The White Mountains and the Catskills offer the most challenging hikes; Vermont, the Berkshires and the Appalachian Trail in CT offer moderate-to-challenging hikes. To find out about these regions, check our website: www.yale.edu/foot.

Keep checking our website for updates. If you have to arrive a day early, you can stay at a Hotel Courtyard Marriott at Yale nearby. You must contact our summer coordinators to let us know your early arrive time. Click on the "Travel Information" link for all travel tips.

Your BELONGINGS! Don't worry about your college stuff! We always work it out. Either ship it or have your parents bring it up on Friday, August 23, or we will find a nook or cranny for those who must bring it all with them! For the items you need for the trail, download our equipment list under the "Equipment List" link.

The cost of the 6-day trips is **\$455**, which includes the first night at Yale. The 4-day trips cost **\$435**. We rent equipment for those who cannot provide their own. **GENEROUS Financial aid** (including equipment) is available for those who would not otherwise be able to participate. If you are interested in participating, just follow the directions for **registering online!** Go to www.yale.edu/preorientation. You should register **no later than June 17th**. Once you register, more information about the trip will be emailed in June. A requirement for participating is that you submit a detailed **MEDICAL FORM**. Download this from our webpage and fill it in right away. It is due to us no later than **JULY 15**.

If you have any questions, please email the Summer Student Coordinators at footsummercoordinators@gmail.com (see our website for complete contact information). Do not delay! We hope you will join us on this GREAT ADVENTURE! Check out our WEBSITE for all sorts of information: www.yale.edu/foot!

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