



Oak Openings Backpacking Itinerary (15 Miles)

This is a suggested itinerary for anyone wanting to try backpacking on their own. Metroparks does offer guided trips on the [Overnight Experiences](#) page.

Escape into nature for an overnight retreat and explore the incredible variety of habitats protected within Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. View forests, savannas, and prairies in their autumn splendor as you backpack just over 15 miles over two days on the Scout Trail.

Campsite reservations are available at the [White Oak Campground](#), [Springbrook Campground](#), and the [Cannaley Treehouse Village](#).

Extra Info:

1. Save the ranger number in your phone: 419-407-9718, Press 2 for Oak Openings Ranger.
Call 911 for an emergency.
2. Please review the camping rules and regulations towards the end of this packet.

Recommended Schedule and Route

Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8AM: Call the ranger number (above) and tell them your projected arrival time and your intention to backpack.• 9AM: Arrive Beach Ridge Parking Lot and fill out overnight vehicle permit with ranger (if leaving a vehicle.)• Depart on hike, hiking south on the scout trail, following red signs through the singletrack trail, then yellow blazes for the scout trail• Arrive in camp at White Oak campground• Set up camp• Prepare dinner, eat, sleep
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wake, break camp• Depart on hike, hiking north on the scout trail, follow the gray signs when back on the mountain bike trail• Arrive back at vehicle at Beach Ridge Parking Lot.

CAUTION! Part of your trail will be open to Mountain Biking if conditions allow. They will ride following the gray signs and will be a counter-clockwise route on Thursday through Saturday. Hikers need to be alert and yield to bikes and hike in the opposite direction. If planning a trip on Sunday through Wednesday, traffic on the mountain bike trail is reversed; plan your route accordingly or call for suggestions.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What do I bring?
 - a. [Oak Openings Map](#)
 - b. [Recommended Packing List](#)
 - c. [Meal Planning Advice](#)
2. How much water should I pack?

- a. Plan to carry 2-3L of water a day. There will be potable water available in camp. [How to treat water in the backcountry.](#)
3. What do I do with my trash on the trail? Will there be garbage cans?
 - a. Garbage cans can be somewhat seasonal so are not guaranteed.
 - b. We will pack in and pack out all trash and practice Leave No Trace on the trail. For an overview of Leave No Trace (LNT) outdoor ethics: <https://lnt.org/>
4. What if I am a beginner?
 - a. Metroparks offers guided local trips every year. Check out the [Overnight Experiences](#) page.
5. What will camping be like?
 - a. White Oak and Treehouse Village campsites have flushing toilets. Springbrook campground is more primitive and has a pit toilet. There are a variety of pit toilets and flushing restrooms along the trail. In between these, use a trowel/cat-hole system for bathroom purposes on the trail.
6. Not to get into the dirty details, but what does trowel/cat-hole system mean? How do we go #1 and #2 on the trail?
 - a. #1 should be aimed at rocks if possible. Animals are often attracted to the salts and minerals in urine will chew on bark – damaging trees. Using the rock also prevents eroding loose soils.
 - i. Used TP for drying purposes should be packed out.
 - ii. A “pee-dana” or bandana used for wiping #1 only is an excellent option. Keep on the outside of backpack for drying and UV sunlight sanitizing.
 - b. #2 needs to be buried in a cat-hole. Bring a trowel, but the waste does not touch this tool. Use a stick to push the waste in the hole if your aim is not true.
7. Ok, now that I know that, what if I am on my period?
 - a. Similarly, all products, before and after use, will need to go in your bear bag. You cannot bury any products. Multiple ziptop bags are recommended for this.
 - b. Please be prepared as several factors like tenting with others, altitude, or exertion can bring on a menstrual period even if it is not scheduled.
8. Why all the info? This is overwhelming.
 - a. None of this information is intended to scare off potential hikers, but it is very important to make sure you have a full understanding of this trek. Our hope is that you either have all the information you need or feel comfortable asking us the hard questions!

Going in the Woods

Please follow these simple steps when nature calls:

1. Find a spot at least 200 steps from any water source
2. Dig a hole 6-8 inches deep and bury human waste
3. Pack out used toilet paper



When people are not responsible going in the woods they contaminate the water you swim in, fish from, and drink. Bacteria and viruses found in human feces are known to cause hepatitis, blue baby syndrome, salmonella, giardia, and other gastro-intestinal diseases. Remember, the water in the rivers and lakes you visit may flow into your own drinking water supply.

Metroparks Toledo Campsite and Park Use Permit Rules and Regulations

Thank you for selecting the Metroparks Toledo for your overnight experience. As part of your Rental Agreement, we would like to provide you with some information regarding your reservation.



Use of your Metroparks facilities and grounds is subject to the following rules and regulations. By making a rental reservation, you agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations set forth below as well as all Rules and Regulations of the Metroparks Toledo.

Metroparks Phone Numbers:
Metroparks Office: 419-407-9700
Ranger on Duty 419-407-9718

Age - Campsites must be reserved by individuals 18 years or older. Individuals under 18 yrs. of age need to return to their sites by 10:00 pm unless accompanied by an adult.

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the campground area. Alcoholic beverages are permitted at indoor overnight facilities.

Arrival and Departure Time - Tent Sites: Check-in time is 3 p.m. on the day of arrival. Check-out time is 12 p.m. of the day of departure. Indoor Overnight Facilities: Check-in time is 3:30 p.m. on the day of arrival. Check-out time is 10:30 a.m. on the day of departure.

Campfires - Campfires must not exceed 2'x2'x3' in size with some type of extinguishment plan (water). Keep campfires confined to the fire rings.

Charcoal Disposal - Used charcoal from the grills can be deposited into the fire pits. Damages - Campers are responsible for any damage caused to Metroparks property.

Firewood - Campers at Springbrook, White Oak and Cannonball Prairie Campsites will receive two bundles of firewood for each night of stay. Please deposit empty bags in designated location. Firewood is available at Wiregrass Lake and Farnsworth in designated firewood locations. Please do not bring firewood into the campground. The use of found wood or cutting wood in the Metroparks is prohibited.

Generators - Generators of any type are prohibited
Gray Water - Gray water disposal facilities are provided within the campground area. Waste water is not permitted on the ground.

Grills - To prevent damage, please do not use grills on picnic tables.

Indemnification - Individuals and groups staying overnight in the Metroparks do so at their own risk. Metroparks does not provide security outside of normal park operating hours. An individual or group staying at the campground or indoor overnight facility does so on the condition that the individual or group assumes full responsibility and liability for any injury or damage to members of the group or their property. It is understood that the individual or group shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Metroparks and its officers, employees, and volunteers from any and all liability.

Length of Stay - Campers and overnight rental guests can stay in the campground up to 7 consecutive days during a 30- day period



Number of tents per site - Each individual campsite can accommodate two 12'x12' tents; group campsites five 12'x12' tents.

Number of people - Each campsite accommodates up to 8 people; designated group sites accommodate up to 25 people.

The Granger Island Cabin sleeps 5 overnight and renters may have 3 additional guests until 7 pm. The Tent Platforms on Granger Island accommodate 5 people over night are renters may have 2 guests until 7 pm.

The Caretaker's Cottage at Oak Openings sleeps 6 and renters may have 20 guests until 11 pm. The Pine Ridge Chalet sleeps 5 people and renters may have 15 guests until 11 pm, with a maximum of 5 vehicles.

Parking - Parking lots / areas are provided in designated spots within the campground area. Vehicles are not permitted to park at / in the campsites.

Personal Property - Items left at the campground after the agreed upon departure time will be disposed of by Park Staff. Metroparks is not responsible for lost, stolen or misplaced property/items.

Pets - Pets allowed in the campground if they are registered (name, sex, breed), on a leash at all times and no more than 2 pets per campsite. Pets are prohibited in the restroom facility. You must clean-up after your pet using provided dog clean-up bags. Pets shall not be left unattended at campsite. Pets are not permitted at Granger Island, The Treehouse Village or at Indoor Overnight facilities.

Quiet Time - Campground observes designated quiet time of 11:00 pm to 7:00 am.

Recreation - Volleyball, badminton, Frisbee tossing and ball playing are permitted. Inflatable bouncing moonwalks, dunk tanks, water balloons, horseshoes or golf of any kind is not permitted.

Reservations - Reservations can be made up to 1 year in advance. Camping reservations are required prior to arrival.

Site Amenities - Most campsite include a picnic table, fire ring w/grill and tent area.

Shower Facilities at Oak Openings- Showers Facilities are located at the Beach Ridge Area 3520 Waterville Swanton Rd., Swanton, OH 43558, approximately 1.2 miles from Springbrook and 4 miles from White Oak.

Tents Only - All campsite areas are TENT ONLY sites.

Trash and Recycling - Campground area, sites etc. need to be clean and litter free. A dumpster is provided in the campground for garbage. Recyclable containers are also provided.

Please respect the privacy of other campers. Do not walk through other campsites or allow your pet to enter other campsites. Please do not move picnic tables from other areas to your site.