



## **Metroparks Backpacking and Camping Club: Oak Openings Backpacking Trail (15 Miles, Ages 18+)**

*Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 9AM through Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 4PM*

INTRODUCING METROPARKS BACKPACKING AND CAMPING CLUB! This opportunity is only for those who have previous experience backpacking.

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 at the White Oak Group Site 1 and 2 on 10/18/25.

This trip is dog-friendly for friendly dogs.

Participants must feel comfortable doing this trip **without** Metroparks staff. This is not a program and will not be staffed. Metroparks hike leader volunteers will meet the group at the beginning of the trip and hike with the group to the campground on Saturday, but will not stay in camp Saturday evening or hike with the group on Sunday.

Fee: \$15 each to cover campsite permits. Backpacks, tents, sleeping pads, sleeping bags, stoves and cook sets available to rent\* for a separate nominal \$5 fee.

\*If you are renting equipment, you will need to meet staff at **the Beach Ridge Parking Lot on 10/18/25 at 8AM** to pick up and pack your gear.

To register for this trip, go to [www.MetroparksToledo.com](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com) or call (419) 407-9700. Please contact Alissa Caple at 419-280-9235 or [Alissa.Caple@MetroparksToledo.com](mailto:Alissa.Caple@MetroparksToledo.com) with any questions.

### **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.

The following packet contains information and resources you may choose to use.

## Recommended Schedule and Route

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Saturday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8AM: Meet staff to pick up any rented supplies and get organized (optional)</li> <li>• 9AM: Arrive Beach Ridge Parking Lot</li> <li>• Depart on hike, hiking south on the scout trail, following red signs through the singletrack trail, then yellow blazes for the scout trail</li> <li>• Arrive in camp at White Oak campground</li> <li>• Set up camp</li> <li>• Prepare dinner, eat, sleep</li> </ul> |
| Sunday   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wake, break camp</li> <li>• Depart on hike, hiking north on the scout trail, follow the gray signs when back on the mountain bike trail</li> <li>• Arrive back at vehicles at Beach Ridge Parking Lot.</li> <li>• Return rental gear (if applicable)</li> </ul>  |

Oak Openings Map: <https://metroparkstoledo.com/qrmaps/OakOpeningsPreserve.pdf>

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. Hikers need to be alert and yield to bikes and hike in the opposite direction.

## Recommended Packing List

<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/backpacking-checklist.html>

## Meal Planning

<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/planning-menu.html>

Resources for purchasing ready-to-eat dehydrated backpacking food:

<https://www.alpineaire.com/us/us>

<https://www.backcountry.com/backpacking-food>

<https://www.mountainhouse.com/>

<https://www.backpackerspantry.com/>

<https://goodto-go.com/>

<https://www.rei.com/>

**Water:** Plan to carry 2-3L of water a day. There will be potable water available in camp.

<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/water-treatment-howto.html?series=intro-to-backpacking>

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. What do I do with my trash on the trail? Will there be garbage cans?
  - a. 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/>

2. What if I am a beginner?
  - a. This opportunity is not a program and will not be staffed. This is only for those who have previous backpacking experience and are comfortable doing this on their own.
3. What will camping be like?
  - a. We will be camping at established campgrounds at Oak Openings Metropark. We will have stops to use the restroom at flushing toilets before we leave and have a variety of pit toilets and flushing restrooms along the trail. In between these, we will use a trowel/cat-hole system for bathroom purposes on the trail.
4. 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. We have trowels, but the waste does not touch this tool. Use a stick to push the waste in the hole if your aim is not true.
5. 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 zip-top 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.
6. 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.

**Dogs** – Dogs are 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.

All dogs must stay on trail and on a 6ft leash for the duration of the program. Participating dogs must be licensed, vaccinated, spayed/neutered and four months of age or older. No more than 2 dogs per person. If any dog is being disruptive or aggressive they will be asked to separate from the group.

**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.