

FEBRUARY 2024

# OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP

Recreation and Sport Management  
Health, Human Performance and Recreation  
College of Education and Health Professions



## This issue:

Internship Highlight  
with Braden Hargus III

PAGE 02-03

## REEL ROCK AN EVENING OF FILM WITH UROCK CLIMBING CLUB

The UROCK Climbing Club hosted the Reel Rock 18 film festival on Thursday, March 7. The event was held at Boulders & Brews climbing gym and sponsored by the Outdoor Leadership Minor and UREC Outdoors.

Sixty students attended the film festival showing which highlighted some of the year's biggest climbing adventures and showcased the human stories behind the incredible accomplishments. This was the first time UROCK hosted Reel Rock, and they're looking forward to future events that build and support the campus climbing community.

Club officers were able to secure enough RSO funding and sponsorships to offer the event at no cost to UARK students. What's more? Ozark Catering treated students to a taco dinner before the festival showing.

Special thanks to Boulders and Brews for their continued support of Outdoor Leadership students and the UROCK Climbing club. Check out their webpage [bouldersandbrews.com](http://bouldersandbrews.com) and follow them on instagram [@bouldersandbrewsgym](https://www.instagram.com/bouldersandbrewsgym) for information on class schedule, special offers, and upcoming events.



Follow us on Instagram  
[@outdoorleadership\\_uark](https://www.instagram.com/outdoorleadership_uark)







## INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHT

### A DISCUSSION WITH BRADEN HARGUS III

Senior Recreation and Sport Management Major and Outdoor Leadership Minor, Braden Hargus III sat down with Anya Bruhin, Director of Outdoor Leadership to discuss his spring internship experiences at Coler Mountain Bike Preserve and Lacaida Ropes.

Braden’s interest in outdoor recreation began in High School when he joined his school’s mountain biking team. The Arkansas National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) is a youth development organization and has teams all over the state and teaches students mountain biking skills as well as stewardship and conservation. “NICA teaches respect trails and fosters stewardship. It really sparked a desire to keep riding and exploring new spaces. I knew the etiquette, and had the confidence to ride and explore independently.” NICA jumpstarted the journey making Braden more aware of conservation and leave no trace principles and has helped him grow greater respect for environment.

Braden added the Outdoor Leadership Minor in the Fall of 2023 and quickly focused on the biking and trail related courses; Bikepacking, Trail Stewardship and Management, Mountain Biking and Wilderness First Aid.

This focus led him to seek an internship opportunity with Coler Mountain Bike Preserve in Bentonville. Braden’s role is part program support and part trail crew support. “The courses I took really set me up for success and gave me the experience I needed to be able to contribute to the Coler team and ultimately further my education in outdoor recreation.” Braden says that while programming has been enjoyable, trail work is the most fun. He has participated in an invasive species workshop, and helped with some re-routing, water mitigation, and event course mapping. He finds the work satisfying and enjoys the feeling of riding on trails he worked on.

One of the most impactful aspects of the Outdoor Leadership program, according to Braden, is the focus on conservation. Students earn a Leave No Trace Level I Instructor certification as a part of the ODLR minor. That focus on conservation and environmental stewardship is one of the reasons why he values his experience at Lacaida Ropes. Founder Pedro Somarriba uses these principles in the production of his metered ropes, minimizing waste and environmental impact.



**“The courses I took really set me up for success and gave me the experience I needed to be able to contribute to the Coler team and ultimately further my education in outdoor recreation.”**

-BRADEN HARGUS III,  
RESM/OLDR GRADUATE.





## INTERNSHIP HIGHLIGHT CONTINUED

Braden has been learning about supply chain, rope production, online sales, patents, safety standards, and vendor networking while interning with Lacaída.

Working with a minority-owned business has been eye opening for Braden. He has gained an awareness for lifting up people of color and hearing their perspective. Braden acknowledges the privilege of being a white male in the outdoor industry. “Working with Pedro Somarriba at Laciada and Geo Velazquez at Coler has been a great learning experience for using my privilege for allyship. It’s been great to bring new folks along and learn that you have an impact.”

When asked what is next for this spring graduate, Braden says he is interested in:

- Outdoor industry supply chain with safety and pride in product based on experience and need for better equipment rather than pure profit
- Trail design and management at the state or national park level
- Event production and race course design
- Law enforcement ranger academy for park ranger and game warden roles

We could not be more proud of Braden and wish him all the best in his journey and look forward to following his career in the future.

