

DECEMBER 2024

OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP

Recreation and Sport Management

Health, Human Performance and Recreation

College of Education and Health Professions



\$4.5 BILLION

YES, WITH A B

The US Bureau of Economic Analysis released its 2023 figures, showing the massive economic impact Outdoor Recreation has in the State of Arkansas.

The state's Outdoor Recreation economy added to the GDP at a rate (2.5%) above the national average, and accounted for over \$2 billion in wages. This continuing upward trend is great news for the state and great news for our students.

[Read about the report](#) and [how Arkansas stacks up](#) against other states in this sector.

Record Enrollment in the Minor (80!)

There are now 80 students enrolled in the Outdoor Leadership Minor, more than ever before. The continued growth is a positive trend that mirrors the economy in the state (see above), [the priorities of our state](#), the needs of our students, and their desire to connect with each other and the outdoors.

With record course offerings across a wide range of outdoor disciplines, ODLR students are learning about themselves, their peers, and learning new skills, both technical and human. See page three for quotes from our current students!

We are excited to start a new semester with all of our new and current students, and we look forward to more learning in the outdoors!

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Outdoor Recreation Economic Impact
Record Enrollment (Again!)

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ODLR & YMCA of the Rockies
Team Up

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ODLR Students Drop Knowledge

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ODLR Teams up with YMCA of the Rockies

STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

The Outdoor Leadership Minor at the University of Arkansas has teamed up with YMCA of the Rockies, located in Estes Park, Colorado to create a workforce pipeline.

Students in the minor are encouraged to apply for positions, both seasonal and longer. The training undergone by ODLR students prepares them well to be plugged into the YMCA of the Rockies program staff with immediate success. YMCA of the Rockies promotes a strong culture, and room and board can also be accessed at a very reasonable cost.

Seasonal positions range from ropes facilitators to hike guides, and many more. Several current ODLR students are already in the interview process for jobs in summer 2025. If students are thinking of applying, head [HERE](#) and see what's available, all at the foot of the Rocky Mountains.



Above: Logan always gets the shot
Below: Climbing 1 swears a blood oath
Bottom: Outdoor Living Skills cheesin'



Work here for the summer? Yeah, we're in.





You Don't Have to Take Our Word For It

What are Current ODLR Students Saying?

Shared Experiences from students in RESM 10302 - Outdoor Living Skills

When we were sitting around the campfire reflecting on how the first day had gone, I could not help thinking about how proud of myself I was. I felt so much more comfortable than I thought I would. Although it was only one night, it was seriously life changing. I have been equipped with the necessary skills to go outside, feeling safer and passing that knowledge to others who also want to. I am confident in my decision making and common sense to avoid a lot of near misses, but I know that I am also willing to take risks and try new things.

I think this class will really help me in the future. Looking at teaching through an analytical lens is not something that I have done very often if ever, and I think it brings up some interesting points. I will certainly pay more attention to how I present content and information to people in the future in a professional setting. I can tell that all the best teachers I've had in the past have similar philosophies in how they present their content, and being able to see it from their point of view is pretty enlightening.

This trip has sparked a newfound appreciation for the simplicity and beauty of outdoor life, and I feel motivated to continue expanding my skills and knowledge for future adventures. Spending time outdoors and breaking free from the usual grind can do wonders, like seriously lowering stress, clearing your mind, and just making you feel good overall. It's like hitting the reset button. You come back feeling more creative, more in tune with yourself, and just happier. Plus, there's something about being in nature that helps you slow down, appreciate the little things, and grow in ways you didn't expect.