RIOMESA CENTER: Preparing for your trip, what to bring, and how to find us

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

LIABILITY WAIVERS: everyone in your group must fill out a waiver. Go to http://www.riomesa.utah.edu/facilities/scheduling.html.

TRIP PLANNING

What to bring

Water: we have water for washing, showering, but bring your own culinary water.

Weather is unpredictable, watch the forecast and be prepared for sunny and warm or cloudy and cold weather. Days could be quite hot, nights can be cold.

There is no cell phone access, but there is electricity and internet (e-mail). The internet is for emergency or research use only; you will not be able to check your email at the ranch.

General supplies:
- Tent (if you are camping)
- Sleeping bag and/or bed sheets
- Sleeping pad (foam or thermarest)
- Mess kit (cup, plate, bowl, and silverware)
- Toothbrush, contact lens solution, and other essential toiletries.
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Flashlight or head lamp
- Pocket knife
- Daypack

Clothes:
- Hat
- Jacket or windbreaker
- Rain gear
- Sunglasses
- Hiking footgear
- Towel

Other, Optional:
- GPS
- Acoustic instruments
- Camera
- Binoculars
SOME GUIDELINES

Conserve water. The supply is limited at the Ranch.
No drugs and no weapons.
Behave yourself.
First aid is in the Dalton House, in the computer room, in a plastic container on shelves on the right side of the room.
Satellite phone is in the Dalton House computer room for emergencies.
Campfires by caretaker’s permission only; in designated fire rings.
Rake and extinguish coals with water when finished
Stay on roads and trails
No river swimming without life vests

INFO ABOUT CENTER

• 380 acres of bottomland along the Dolores River. Inner road runs 2.4 miles
• This is a remote and rustic site. Plan accordingly.
• Dirt road last 8 miles from Dewey Bridge. High clearance 4 wheel drive vehicle recommended.
• No cell service; satellite phone for emergencies
• One computer for guest use
• Wireless capability for your personal laptop
• Electric power is available for laptop computers, lights, to recharge batteries
• Dalton House has 2 bunk beds (sleeps 4) and a futon (1-2) with one inside toilet, shower and full kitchen with microwave, toaster, refrigerator, stove, plates, silverware, glassware and cookware for 12-14. This is a communal space for all visitors.
• El Shack can sleep 2.
• There is heat, but winters are cold and summers are very hot-despite the swamp cooler; pack accordingly
• mid-May to mid-July there are biting insects
• Recycling and composting are required; all non-recyclable trash must be removed by visitor

UPON ARRIVAL

• After unloading cars, park in an area that does not block the driveway loop
• Check in with the caretaker. He will provide a 30 minute orientation upon your arrival.
• Campfires by caretaker’s permission only, in designated fire rings.
• You are expected to clean up after yourself. The group leader must complete a check out with the caretaker before leaving.
CLEAN UP

- Vacuum Dalton rooms and porch.
- Do dishes.
- Wipe stove, microwave, toaster, messes in refrigerator, sink.
- Perishables can be left in the fridge for caretakers and other guests
- Pack out all trash that hasn't been recycled or composted. (There is a dumpster ½ miles West of the Dewey Bridge)
- Please respect those who will come after you.

Please be respectful of our facilities. Leave them better than you found them!

DIRECTIONS TO RANCH FROM SALT LAKE CITY

I-15 to Route 6, over Soldier summit to Price and south to I70, east on I70 past Green River all the way to EXIT 204 for Cisco and Rt. 128. Shortly after this exit, watch for a signed right turn for 128 to Moab. There's no stop sign here, but turn right (south) to Moab. Follow 128 to the Dewey Bridge over the Colorado River.

IMMEDIATELY after the bridge, turn left on a gravel road. There’s a convenient bathroom here at the site of the former Dewey Bridge (burned down in 2007 right after the Plant Structure and Function field trip). From here it is 8.1 miles to Rio Mesa Center. Drive slowly, the road twists and turns, dips up and down, and is washboarded.

Mile 0 Dewey Bridge site. Follow the gravel road E-SE.
Mile 1.3 Go straight at this unsigned turnoff to Lake Bottom
Mile 1.6 You’ll see a nice modern home on the bluff ahead
Mile 1.8 Cross water-filled Waring Canyon in a steep gulch
Mile 1.9 You will pass the driveway to the nice home. Keep going
Mile 3.3 A BLM campground before a steep pitch in the road
Mile 3.5 Keep on main road at unsigned turnoff to Cowskin Canyon
Mile 4.8 Signed turnoff to Top of World trail, follow main road and Rio Mesa sign (to left) as it turns NE
Mile 6.9 Road dips down to cross Cottonwood Canyon. Right before the wash, there’s a wooden sign for Rio Mesa Center: turn left on it.
Mile 8.1 The Rio Mesa Center gate. After driving through the gate, bear left and park near the Dalton House. Unload here, check in with Hau Truong and follow his directions for parking.