



May 1998

Dear Member of the Class of 2002:

Welcome to Princeton! The Outdoor Action Program would like to help introduce you to the University by offering you the opportunity to participate in the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Outdoor Action Frosh Trip Program, which runs from Saturday, September 5 through Friday, September 11. The purpose of the trip is for you to meet other members of your class before Orientation Week, learn about Princeton, and start your four years at Princeton with some new friendships. Last year, 612 first year students (54% of the Class of '01) joined us on 72 different outdoor trips—the largest wilderness orientation program in the United States. Since 1974, over 8,200 incoming students have started Princeton with Outdoor Action. The program has increased in size every year since 1987, a sign of how much fun students have on the trip. This year we anticipate our biggest program ever, with more than 600 members of the Class of '02. With that many students you can imagine that we get a wonderful cross-section of the diversity of the Class of 2002. The enclosed brochure explains the trip in more detail and the reasons why so many students choose to participate every year. We hope you can join us. Remember, the Outdoor Action Frosh Trip is for all members of the class. Even if you have never been in the outdoors before, we have a trip that you'll enjoy.

**Trip Dates:** This year the trips will run from **Sunday, September 6 through Friday, September 11. You will need to arrive on campus on Saturday, September 5. Check-in for Outdoor Action is at 4:00 PM** where you will meet your leaders and the other members of your group and prepare for your trip. You can pick up your room key and move into your dorm room on Saturday, September 5, as long as your room is ready. (There are a few rooms that may not be available due to summer housing. We will have specific information to send you in July.) The trip will end on Friday, September 11. You will return from the trip in time for all aspects of Orientation Week.

**Cost and Financial Aid:** The cost of the trip is \$250.00, which covers all trip expenses (food, equipment, and transportation). Outdoor Action is committed to making sure that the Frosh Trip Program is available to all members of the Class of '02. Students who are receiving financial aid from the University are eligible to apply for financial aid for the Frosh Trip. If you wish to apply for aid, please indicate this on the application form and do **not** enclose any payment. Aid amounts are based on the amount of aid you are receiving from the University. We will let you know in July about your financial aid request.

**Students with Disabilities:** Outdoor Action trips can often accommodate students with different disabilities such as hearing impairments, visual impairments, or mobility limitations. Please contact Rick Curtis at 609-258-3552 to discuss your particular needs and trip possibilities.

**Observant Jewish Students:** Many trips will return in time for students to observe the Jewish Sabbath on Friday, September 11. If you need to return before sundown, please indicate this on your application and we will place you on an appropriate trip.

**What You Need to Bring:** There is very little equipment you will need other than personal clothing and lightweight boots for hiking. You will also need a synthetic-fill sleeping bag (e.g. hollofil, polarguard) and a frame backpack (internal or external frame). If you do not have a sleeping bag or a backpack, Outdoor Action can provide them. There is a space on the application form to indicate if you need either a backpack or a sleeping bag. If possible, please borrow these items from a friend or relative since we have to provide equipment for over 750 frosh and leaders. In July we will send you a detailed equipment list and instructions on how to

prepare for your trip. If you want to get an early start on equipment, check out the OA Frosh Trip Web Site ([www.princeton.edu/~oa/ft.html](http://www.princeton.edu/~oa/ft.html)).

**Application Forms:** Please complete both **Part A** and **Part B** of the two enclosed application forms. The application provides us with information about your trip preferences, physical condition (to help us place you in an appropriate trip), your health history, and any special needs. Send **Part A** and **Part B** (both pages) to Outdoor Action. Be sure to enclose a check or money order for \$250.00 payable to Princeton University (unless you are requesting financial aid). **Space on the trip is limited and enrollment will be dealt with on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications are processed based on the postmark date. Due to the popularity of the program, we suggest you return your application as soon as possible. It is likely that the trip will fill before the application deadline (June 30).** We will do our best to place you in your first-choice trip. Since certain types of trips have a limited enrollment, please indicate several preferences. The majority of our trips are backpacking trips. A detailed information packet will be mailed to you in mid-July, with specific information on what items to bring, where and when to arrive, how to get your room key, and other important information. You can also check out information about the trip at the OA Web Site at ([www.princeton.edu/~oa/ft.html](http://www.princeton.edu/~oa/ft.html)).

If enrollment is filled, we will notify you, and place you on our waiting list. If you are interested in participating in the Urban Action Program in case the Frosh Trip is full, please complete the Urban Action application and return it along with your Frosh Trip application. Do not send a check for Urban Action. **Please return your application to:**

**Outdoor Action Program, Clio Hall, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544**

**Health Forms:** To approve participation of applicants, the University Health Services Office requires that all Outdoor Action Program participants complete and return the health history forms that were included in your matriculation packet to McCosh Health Center by June 1. You must **have all immunization requirements completed** (Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Polio, Diphtheria/Tetanus, and Hepatitis B). It is *recommended* that you have had a Tetanus booster shot within the last five years. You are *required* to get a Tetanus booster if you have not had one within ten years. If you have not had a booster within that time, please arrange to get one and include that information on your medical history form. **We are not permitted to take people without medical clearance from the Health Center. Please be sure to note the following:**

- (1) Fill out both Part A and Part B of the application completely, and please print.**
- (2) Your signature and that of your parent or guardian is required on the application.**
- (3) Be sure to enclose your check or money order for \$250 payable to Princeton University unless you are applying for financial aid.**
- (4) All applications are accepted on a first-come first-served basis. Applications must be postmarked by June 30.**
- (5) Make sure your completed medical forms have been sent to McCosh Health Center.**

We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to join us! If you have questions about the program, please feel free to contact the Frosh Trip Program Coordinators, Katherine Byers '00 or Laura Scott '98 at 609-258-3552. We look forward to seeing you in the fall. Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

*Rick Curtis*

Rick Curtis '79  
Director, Outdoor Action