

IIT Rock Climbing visits Red River Gorge

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Last week, TechNews made an immense error and accidentally printed this spread with the improper text attached to it. We apologize immensely to IIT Rock Climbing Club and anyone else that this inconvenienced. We appreciate your understanding and patience.

Over Spring Break 2012, 14 members of the IIT Rock Climbing Club travelled to Red River Gorge, Kentucky to rock climb for 4 days. With the generous aid of the SAF and the commitment of the Rock Climbing Club's Executive Board this event ran smoothly and very successfully, with members of all skill levels learning, excelling, and developing as rock climbers.

The group made camp at Miguel's Pizza with hundreds of other climbers from across the country for \$2 per person per night. At 8:00am on Thursday, as the final five members drove up from the seven hour drive, the entire group departed for the Great Wall at Muir Valley, a privately owned valley in the Red where climbing is free and all routes and trails are maintained by avid volunteers and climbers.

After hiking 30 minutes into the valley the club started with a 5.7 and 5.8, with more experienced climbers leading the routes up the wall and setting equipment. At the same wall we set a 5.10a, 5.10c, and a 5.6. Every member was able to climb before the group moved on to Bruise Brothers Wall, where members climbed 85' 5.10a's, 40' roofed 5.11a's, and other challenging routes. Nearby, in the hot Kentucky sun, members explored the preserve to discover huge erosions in the sandstone cliffs where waterfalls had formed.

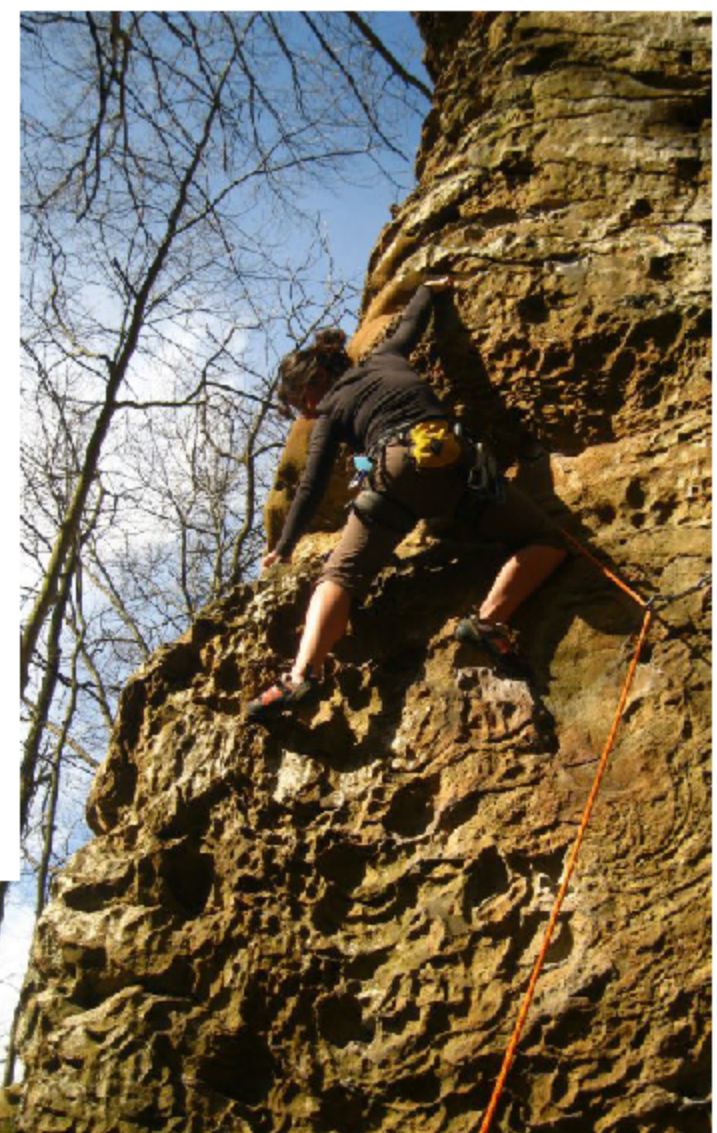
On Friday the group started at Volunteer Wall in the Pendergrass Murray Recreation Preserve where members climbed several challenging routes before it started to downpour. Many members learned to lead climb at this wall before the rain forced members to either find a dry place for lunch, or rush to get their cars out

of the muddy and steep parking lot before it was too wet. We found a cave to eat lunch in that was several hundred feet wide and around two hundred feet deep. After lunch we drove back to Muir Valley where we climbed at the practice wall, teaching more members to lead and clean routes, while kept dry from the rain by the sandstone cliff overhang above. Routes included a chimney and a 5.11a crimp-heavy route.

On Saturday the group started at Left Flank near Military Wall and climbed several challenging routes until lunchtime, teaching more members to lead climb, lead belay, clean, and even set trad gear. After lunch some members packed up to drive back to Chicago, while the rest of the group continued on to Pistol Ridge in the north valley and climbed several more routes, concluding with an 85' 5.9 that lead up a stepping outcrop of sandstone at sunset.

Sunday the group climbed at Gold Coast and Crossroads in the Pendergrass Murray Recreational Preserve and continued to teach more members to lead climb and enjoyed their last afternoon in sunny and beautiful Red River Gorge, Kentucky with some more 85' routes.

Rock Climbing is definitely a great sport for anyone who enjoys the outdoors and the club was excited to see members of all skill levels learning, teaching, and having an amazing spring break in Red River Gorge, Kentucky. Club members are excited for more opportunities such as a trip to Devil's Lake, Wisconsin or possible trips next semester to Jackson Falls in Illinois, or Joshua Tree, CA. Trips like these are funded and made possible by working with organizations like the Student Activities Fund and the Office of Campus Life, and the entire club expresses their gratitude to these organizations for helping make IIT experiences like this as incredible as they are. The IIT Climbing Club climbs indoors in Chicago almost every weekend and is always looking to expand its membership from the 195 people on its emailing list or its 121 Facebook members. To join, email iitclimbing@gmail.com and feel free to join our Facebook Group.



Photos courtesy of IIT Rock Climbing