



## **Backpacking Loan Closet Rental Policies and Terms**

Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area's Loan Closet rentals are subject to the following terms and conditions. Rental gear is also subject to Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area's Rental Agreement.

### **Eligible Renters**

Loan closet renters must be members of an organization or organized community group with an observable history of coordinating events. Renters must be from or visiting a site within the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, (within Lauderdale, Colbert, Lawrence, Limestone, Franklin, or Morgan counties), during their scheduled trip. Gear rental by individuals or groups of friends unaffiliated with an organized group is prohibited.

### **Required Security Deposit**

The MSNHA loan closet provides free rentals to organized groups. However, a refundable security deposit of \$100 is required to rent equipment. Loss or damage to gear, late return of gear, or returning dirty gear may result in forfeiture of the security deposit. See later sections for more details.

### **Gear Proficiency Acknowledgement & Training**

We want your group to enjoy your time outdoors as much as possible, and we also know new experiences like going backpacking can be scary or challenging. At least one member of each group must be fully proficient with the use of loan closet gear, as verified by your group's renting representative. We will facilitate training prior to rental for any members of your group who would like to learn the basics of using our backpacking equipment. This also helps us receive our gear back in working order for the next group.



## **Start Date**

Your rental start date is the day you will pick up your equipment from MSNHA. Gear is available for pickup Monday through Friday, excluding holidays and other days the University of North Alabama is closed. We do not accept Saturday and Sunday as start dates. If your group requires gear proficiency training, this must be conducted before your start date or at the time of pick up.

## **Return Date**

This is the date by which you must drop your rented gear off with us. As with pickup, gear is available for drop off Monday through Friday, excluding holidays and other days the University of North Alabama is closed.

## **Length of Rental**

Loan closet gear may be rented for a period up to 14 days. Rental start and return dates are never on Saturday or Sunday. If your start date is a Friday, and you come back to civilization on a Sunday, this means that you cannot return gear to us until Monday, making a Monday return a three-day rental.

## **Don't be Late**

We make commitments knowing that you will return your gear on time. If for some reason this doesn't happen, we will charge you a daily fee equal to \$5 per set of equipment.

## **Gear Cleanliness**

All gear must be clean (meaning not full of dirt) and dry when returned. While renting gear is free, if you don't return gear clean and dry, you may forfeit your provided security deposit (\$100). Mold, mildew, and accumulated grime can do a lot of damage. We don't want to charge you for it!



## **Damaged Gear**

The MSNHA crew has done a lot of camping and backpacking. We know all about normal wear that comes with usage. However, we also know the kind of gear we carry lasts for years. With that in mind, rips, tears, stains, missing parts, burn holes, and dents, etc. are damages we will charge for. Please take care of our gear so we can continue to provide free gear rentals!

## **Lost or Stolen Gear**

When you rent, it is your responsibility to get equipment back to us. If we don't get it back within seven days of your return date, we will charge you for the cost of gear replacement.

## **Reserving Gear**

Please reserve your gear as far in advance as possible to ensure equipment will be available, and so we may have it prepared for you.

## **Cancellation Policy**

If you must cancel a scheduled rental, we ask that you cancel at least 72 hours in advance of your reservation. If you cancel within 72 hours of your reservation, you may forfeit your provided security deposit (\$100). We do, however, understand life and weather happen. We will review cancellations on a case-by-case basis.

## **Questions?**

If any of this doesn't make sense or you have additional questions, we are happy to explain further or find an answer for you. Give us a call for assistance at 256.765.5028.