

# RITE NOW @ ROP



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Experiential learning is a key component of Rite of Passage programs because it bridges lessons learned in the classroom with life in the real world allowing students to “integrate new learning into old constructs.”

Recently, the campground at Cooper’s Rock State Park in West Virginia became a natural classroom for Hillcrest Academy students who took to the great outdoors for a weekend of camping, rafting, and hands-on learning. The students traveled over 300 miles to the scenic campground where they were joined by their peers from Silver Oak Academy, Hillcrest’s sister school in Maryland.

The weekend kicked off with the campers getting acquainted while working together to set up campsites and build a fire before sun down. The students learned important lessons about fire safety, food storage and how to protect your campsite from wildlife while setting up their tents and preparing their first meal. On Saturday, the young men were treated to a white-water rafting excursion-- a trip highlight since many young men hadn’t rafted before.

After the weekend of laughter and learning, the students returned to their respective campuses with a new understanding of nature and countless memories that will last a lifetime.

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