

**PARTICIPANT'S
GUIDE**

**BioBlitz!
Oklahoma
2017**



**BLACK MESA
STATE PARK &
NATURE PRESERVE**

Pronghorn
Antilocapra americana

Thank you for registering for this year's annual celebration of Oklahoma's biodiversity! The BioBlitz! coordinators, the Oklahoma Biological Survey, and Oklahoma State Parks welcome you to a fun and educational weekend of exploring Oklahoma's natural diversity.

Schedule

(all times are Daylight Saving Time for the Central Time Zone)

Friday, October 6th

- 2:00 p.m. Packet Pick Up begins
- 4:00 p.m. 42 Hour Inventory begins
- 4:00 p.m. Biodiversity Activities begin
- 7:28 p.m. Sunset
- 8:28 p.m. Moon rise, 98.5% illuminated

Saturday, October 7th

- 7:53 a.m. Sunrise
- 7:30-9:00 a.m. Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate
- 9:47 a.m. Moon set
- 7:27 p.m. Sunset
- 9:08 p.m. Moon rise, 94.4% illuminated

Sunday, October 8th

- 7:54 a.m. Sunrise
- 9:45 a.m. Turn in species lists to Taxa Team Leaders
- 10:00 a.m. Inventory ends
- 10:10 a.m. BioBlitz! Celebration
- 10:15 a.m. Announcements of the Talley of Species
Location of BioBlitz! 2018
- 10:55 a.m. Moon set

DETAILED ACTIVITY
SCHEDULE WILL BE
AVAILABLE AS A
SEPARATE DOCUMENT.

IMPORTANT --- IMPORTANT --- IMPORTANT

BioBlitz! 2017 official Time is Daylight Saving Time in the CENTRAL TIME ZONE.

Please be aware that your cell phone may change to Mountain Time if it picks up signal from towers to the west. We highly recommend you keep track of time with a watch or other device that does not automatically connect to the internet.

Failure to know the correct time may result in missing scheduled activities or Saturday evening meal!

**BIOBLITZ! BASE CAMP WILL HAVE A CLOCK
WITH THE CORRECT TIME.**

Food, Housing, & Cellular Service

STAYING OVERNIGHT

Camping

Free tent camping is available to all registrants on both Friday and Saturday nights. BioBlitz! tent camping will be in the lawn of the Group Camp. Camping outside of the Group Camp area will subject you to additional camping fees. Participants need to provide their own camping equipment. There will a fire ring in the tent area for communal use. There will not be picnic tables in the tenting area. You are encouraged to bring your own camp chairs. You will not be able to drive onto the lawn, vehicles need to remain in designated parking area.

RV camping is available within the State Park. Additional fee will be charged.

Bunkhouse Reservations Housing

At BioBlitz! Base Camp, we have 8 bunkhouses available for an extra cost for those that don't want to tent camp.

Reservations for bunkhouse space can be found on the online registration page.

You will be able to rent an entire 14 bed bunkhouse for \$50 per night (Friday and/or Saturday) or reserve a single bed in a male or female bunkhouse for \$5 per night. Bunkhouse rental fees will go directly to the state park to help cover the cost of using this facility.

Space is limited and reservations require full payment. Only 6 full bunkhouses are available and only 14 individual beds per gender.

Bunkhouses have electricity, but no heat or a/c. They include a picnic table inside. Bathrooms and showers are available separately in a nearby bath house. You will need to provide your own bedding.

But don't forget - your BioBlitz! registration includes free tent camping space at BioBlitz! Base Camp.

MEALS

Except for the Saturday night meal, we will not provide any plates, cups, mugs, or utensils. This is to keep the event cost down and to encourage participants to use reusable items.

Saturday night dinner

Brisket, potato salad, baked beans, rolls, brownie, and beverages. A vegetarian or vegan meal will be provided to individuals that requested one. Participants with other dietary needs should provide their own food.

Saturday and Sunday morning beverages

Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate.

All other meals and snacks are the responsibility of participants.

CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE

The only reliable cellular coverage is with AT&T. You should have service throughout the state park and most parts of the nature preserve. All other companies have extremely limited service.

In Case of an Emergency

SEVERE STORMS

BioBlitz! will not be canceled due to rain. However, severe weather (lightning, tornadoes, flooding, etc) may cause activities to be limited during the event. Although less likely than other times of year, severe weather can occur in October and you should know what to do in case of hazardous weather. Forecasts and weather will be monitored by BioBlitz! staff throughout the event. However, participants are encouraged to be responsible for their own safety and stay informed. Download and use weather warning and lightning alert apps for smart phones, use a weather radio, and be aware of the conditions during the event weekend.

In case of lightning - all participants should seek indoor shelter if you observe lightning or hear thunder. There is no safe place outdoors when a thunderstorm is nearby. If you are in the field, you should return to the Base Camp as soon as possible. Stay away from tall trees, towers, or utility poles. Avoid open areas and high locations.

In case of tornado threat - all participants should seek safety inside a sturdy building,. Do not get in your vehicle for shelter. If you are in the field and a tornado is imminent, you should lie in a low area and cover your head.

In case of heavy rain and flooding - avoid flowing water, including creeks, ditches, ravines, and storm drains. Do not drive across flooded roads.

|||||

HEAT AND DEHYDRATION

It may finally be autumn, but the afternoons can still be hot and sunny! Be cautious of heat and over exertion; compounded together may cause an increased chance for heat related problems. Wear a hat, light-colored clothing, and drink plenty of water. Don't wait until you get thirsty to drink water!

VENOMOUS SNAKES

Be aware that there are venomous snakes in the area. Always take a buddy into the field with you. Wear boots and loose-fitting pants if you are venturing into venomous snake territory. Try your best to not surprise a snake. Watch where you place your hands and feet, especially when climbing or stepping over objects such as large rocks, and logs.

HUNTING

This year BioBlitz! is held during archery season for deer. Hunting is not allowed in Black Mesa State Park and Nature Preserve, but is permissible on private land surrounding these areas. BioBlitz! participants should follow a few precautions: If going out early in the morning or late in the afternoon, wear blaze orange. Safety vests are available at the Registration Table. If possible, make noise while out in the field (yes, we realize this is counter productive for some of you!).

OPEN RANGE CATTLE

Be aware that BioBlitz! 2017 is in an area of open rangeland, meaning that cattle are not fenced off of roads. Cattle may be in the roadway and dark animals are especially difficult to see at night. Demonstrate caution when driving at night and moderate speeds in the area.

|||||

FIRST AID

A basic first aid kit and mobile defibrillator will be available at Base Camp. There will be certified CPR and First Aid volunteers to help if needed.

LOCAL HOSPITAL

Cimarron Memorial Hospital, 100 Ellis Ave. Boise City, OK 73933 Approximately 27 miles, 35 minutes travel time.

Directions: From Base Camp head south out of Black Mesa State Park. Go to Boise City via Hwy 325. On the west side of Boise City, before reaching the town square, turn right onto Ellis Ave. Hospital will be on right.

In an Emergency, call 405-255-8106 to alert BioBlitz! staff of your problem. Then Call 911 on your way to the hospital. If possible, do not wait for ambulance service at the State Park or Nature Preserve.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I have never been to BioBlitz! and I am not a biologist. How can I participate?

A: As a new Citizen Scientist, we recommend that you attend a few of the scheduled activities that appeal to you. You will also see Expert Biologists at Base Camp identifying organisms. You are encouraged to chat with them to learn more. When you are more knowledgeable, you can explore on your own, taking a checklist of your favorite taxa groups. Take pictures of things you see and bring them back to Base Camp to be identified and added to the inventory.

Q: Can I attend just one day?

A: Yes! You can attend as little or as much as you would like when you register for BioBlitz!

Q: What is included in the registration?

A: As part of your registration fee you get two nights camping in group site and Saturday night meal. As a registered participant, you may attend all scheduled activities, interact with Expert Biologists, and have a weekend of biodiversity fun and education. Hoodie and bunkhouse reservations are extra.

Q: Do I have to attend all the activities?

A: No, in fact because of scheduling, you will not be able to attend all scheduled activities. You should attend activities that interest you, but don't feel obligated to always be at a scheduled activity. Sometimes it is good just to wander on your own, or have a chat with the biologists at in the classrooms.

Q: How many people usually attend?

A: We generally have 250 to 350 people attend BioBlitz! Of those usually 40-50 are Expert Biologists who are there to lead the Citizen Scientists in activities and identification.

Q: Where do I go for the scheduled activities?

A: Activities will meet on the south porch of Group Camp Community Building, look for the sign indicating the meeting spot. Some activities will walk from there or caravan by vehicle to a different part of the inventory area. Occasionally, an activity will meet somewhere else. Please look at the schedule to be sure you know the meeting place. Several activities will be going to the Nature Preserve, which is about 30 minutes from Base Camp.

Q: Will dishes be provided at meals?

A: Dishes and utensils will be provided during the Saturday night meal. You will need your own dishes, utensils, and mug for all other meals/food.

Q: I took a picture of something that I can't identify. What do I do?

A: Find an expert biologist knowledgeable with that group of species. Taxa Team Leaders are listed at Base Camp and have bright colored name tags. Ask BioBlitz! staff at the Registration Table to help you find someone to identify your pictures. Be sure that it gets added to the taxa list so that it is counted in the inventory.

Q: What do I do with my checklist of organisms that I found?

A: Lists of species should be brought to the Registration Table and given to the Inventory Coordinator no later than 9:45 a.m. on Sunday to be included in the inventory total.

Q: Can I bring my dog to BioBlitz!?

A: Yes, however, we request that you do not bring pets to scheduled activities or into the Community Center. All pets must be on a leash and under your control.

Q: I didn't order a hoodie, but decided I would like one. Can I buy one at the event?

A: Sorry, no, because of the expense of the hoodie, we will not be ordering extra.