# ROUNDABOUT

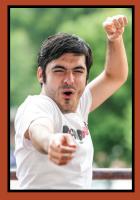
**NC STATE STUDENT MEDIA** 

**FALL 2024** 

# the SCENIC ROUTE ISSUE



# MEET THE STAFF



**Bran Poster**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



**Emily Peedin**PHOTO EDITOR



Audrey Javan
COPY EDITOR



Marlowe Henderson
DESIGN EDITOR



Layney Keesee
PROMOTIONS



Top row from left to right: Grace Warner, Sophia Buckner, Sara Hildreth, Audrey Javan, Emily Peedin, Alex Avellino, Nora Belter, Clementine Goff, Will LaMarche Bottom row from left to right: Layney Keesee, Autumn Tate, Justin Isaiah Iriarte, Bran Poster, Nimet Betul Karatas, Libby Coker, Marlowe Henderson Not pictured: Alannah Anderson, Chase Alston, Bridget Bauman

Photo by Ray Black III

# EDITOR'S NOTE

#### **ABOUT US**

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The newest NC State Student Media outlet, Roundabout is a glossy general interest magazine that covers student life, arts and culture.

#### MAGAZINE STAFF

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#### THE COVER

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Justin Iriarte (left), a second-year in French studies and psychology, and Marlowe Henderson (right), a third-year studying graphic & experience design, stare off into the distance at Dorothea Dix Park on Oct. 9.

Dear hypoallergenic hoagies, hebetudinous hikers and heffalumps,

Bran was stumped. He had to write an editor's note for the Scenic Route Issue, and it needed to be witty, insightful and ideally contain a life lesson tangentially related to the magazine's theme. He racked his brain, poring through his mind palace's non-exhaustive repository of generic platitudes and aphorisms. "Good things come to those who wait?" Meh, Bran didn't really follow that philosophy anyway (except when it came to procrastination). "No pain, no gain?" At the risk of prematurely transforming into a balding middle-aged gym coach, Bran declined. "Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead?" That took a morbid turn! Suddenly, Bran leapt to his feet, dusting his shirt with pretzel crumbs. What if instead of trying to be discount Confucius, he wrote about his experience writing this editor's note in the third person? It's the "scenic route" through the writing process, y'all. Satisfied with his mediocre epiphany, Bran threw a pretzel into the air and tried to catch it in his mouth. He missed.

Although Bran may have abandoned the conventions of writing editor's notes, by no means will he neglect the hallowed duty of hallowing everyone who contributed to this magnificent issue. Redirect the travel patterns of migratory geese to celebrate the goosebump-inducing efforts of our paradigmatic photo editor Emily Peedin, who procured and perfected a flock of pristine pictures. Widen the Panama Canal to make way for the unstoppable flow of creative juices fostered by our chucklesome copy editor Audrey Javan, whose brain is more capacious than any intercontinental shipping vessel. Rectangularize the Bermuda Triangle to reflect the whirlpool-reshaping diligence of our delightful design editor Marlowe Henderson, who not only made the layout of this magazine, but gave her visage for our cover photo. Crush all unawareness of Roundabout's existence with a pygmy hippo stampede instigated by our unsurpassable promotions director Layney Keesee, who puts cardiac surgeons to shame with her ability to reach into the hearts of the public.

Much gratitude to our adviser Ray, without whom we would seldom be clocked in. Thank you to Abi, Allie and the crew over at the business office, who help perpetuate print publishing with their monetary ministrations. Thank you to Patrick, our magnanimous leader. Thank you to our interviewees. And most meaningfully of all, many litanies of gratitude to the staffers who are responsible for creating the content that makes Roundabout what it is. Whether here in the print issue or on our website, your contributions are priceless.

To the Wolfpack with love,

Terbrand Poster I

Gerbrand (Bran) Poster

ROUNDABOUT FALL 2024

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Marlowe Henderson, a third-year studying graphic & experience design, adjusts her sunglasses and her rearview mirror at Dorothea Dix Park on Oct. 9. With this issue of Roundabout, we seek to inspire a life where one enjoys taking the scenic route for a change.

Photo Illustration by Emily Peedin

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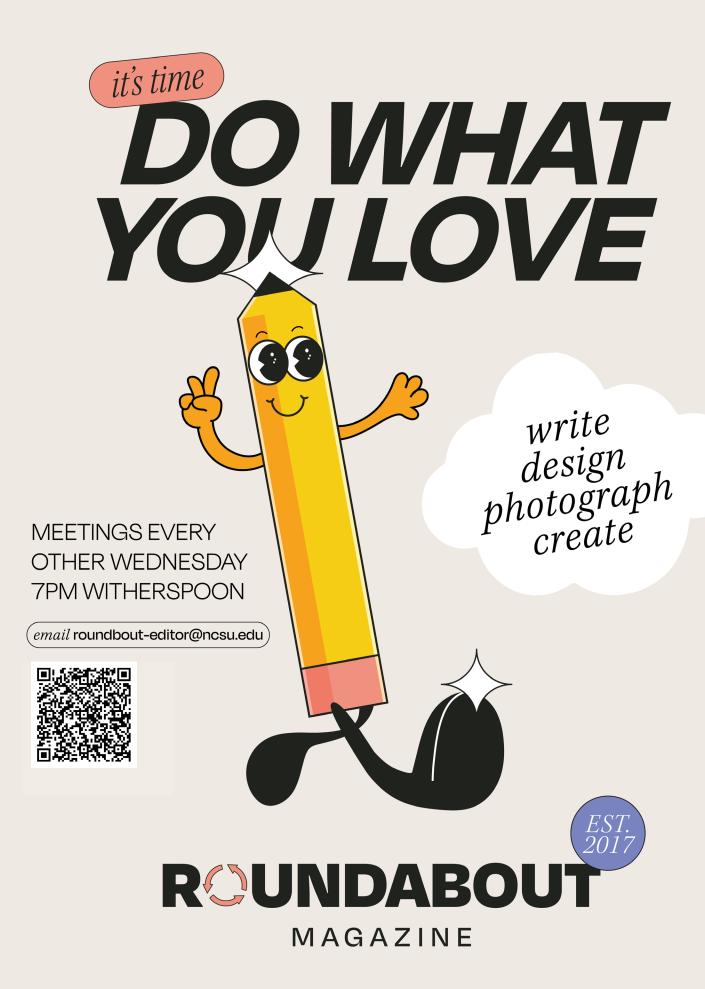
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# • Judgement

Ratings, rankings and ravings — ponderings for every aspect of life

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Good Vibes





# The Humble Side of the Grand Canyon

A Review of "A Walk in the Park: The True Story of a Spectacular Misadventure in the Grand Canyon" by Kevin Fedarko

By Bran Poster, Designed by Autumn Tate

"A Walk in the Park" by Kevin Fedarko isn't your typical nature story. Far from being the tale of an intrepid adventurer who conquers the great unknown, it chronicles two hapless greenhorns, Fedarko and his friend Pete McBride, who ventured into the rock of the Grand Canyon and got taught brutal lessons in humility by Mother Earth. I think Fedarko put it best when he said he got "spanked, abused and made mistakes right up to the very end." It's a conversationally written, witty and sometimes gag-worthily visceral testament to the enduring power of nature.

Before I read this book, I came to see Fedarko speak at D.H. Hill Jr. Library. In my head, I pictured him as some sort of modern Davy Crockett figure, regailing the audience with boasts of his exploits. But rather than the stolid frontiersman I expected him to be, he was self-deprecating, passionately eloquent and displayed a profound level of empathy. His book is by no means a masturbatory tale of self-aggrandizement — it brings in the stories of hiking legends like Kenton Grua, canyon doctors like Tom Myers, members of Native American tribes like Renae Yellowhorse and Dianna Uqualla, and so many others.

Fedarko grew up in the industrial quagmire of 20th century outer Pittsburgh. In his hometown, the former beating heart of the American steel industry, foul-smelling puddles of stagnant orange water lurked at the troughs of hills left barren by strip mining. They called these "the spilly piles." This charming landscape was where Fedarko learned to hike. Needless to say, this left him with a yearning for unspoiled nature from very early on.

Working as a freelance writer and magazine editor, Fedarko traveled to the Grand Canyon looking for new stories to tell. He had a love affair with the Dory boats (no relation to "Finding Nemo") used to ride the whitewater of the Colorado River, and dove headfirst into becoming an (unpaid!) volunteer boating guide. However, in Fedarko's own words, he "sucked" as a guide: he never graduated from piloting the Jackass, a baggage boat specialized for the transport of human sewage deposited in portable camper's toilets called "groovers." Instead of getting to command one of the Dories he so admired, Fedarko was dubbed "groover boy." However, it was also during this time that he wrote his first book, "The Emerald Mile," about the fastest whitewater boating trip in Grand Canyon history.

While Fedarko loved the Colorado River, he didn't come to regard it as "untrammeled" nature. Despite the terrifying power of the river's whitewater "Hellbenders" and "chunders," he noted how it was ultimately dammed at both ends and "rationed, regulated, and controlled" by hydroelectric engineers, so much so that the river is

used and reused by thirsty humans for up to seven times before it reaches the desert. To Fedarko, the Colorado River is plumbing. So when Fedarko's photojournalist friend Pete McBride proposed a journey into the wildest part of the Grand Canyon National Park, the rock above it, groover boy didn't refuse.

McBride and Fedarko had plenty of prior hiking experience from places as legendary as Mount Everest, and they put in the work to acquire hiking paraphernalia, but they simply didn't anticipate what such a trip would entail. Experiencing horrifically blistered feet, boiled sausage ankles, hyponatremia (an electrolyte imbalance caused by having too much water compared to sodium in the body) and more, the duo's first foray into the upper canyon ended in a beleaguered retreat back to civilization. "Maybe we're being taught some kind of lesson... although I have no idea what we're supposed to be learning, aside from the fact that we totally suck," McBride said on their way out. It wasn't until the two buddies humbled up and worked closely with more experienced Grand Canyon hikers that they returned and finished the journey.

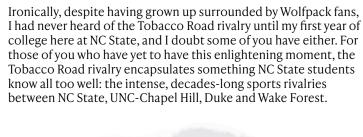
"A Walk in the Park" is the humblest nature novel I've ever read, and between moments of laughing at Fedarko and McBride's antics, I acquired more knowledge than I ever expected to know about the historical reality of the national park. If you appreciate laughing as you learn, even if you're a non-hiker, you'll find this book to be a grand read.



UNC-Chapel Hill player Antavious Lane pulls his teammate Desmond Evans back from redshirt sophomore offensive guard Anthony Carter Jr. (left) in the game against UNC-Chapel Hill at Carter-Finley Stadium on Nov. 25, 2023. The Wolfpack beat the Tar Heels for the third year straight with a score of 39-20.

## The Ties That Forever Bind Us: A Look at the Tobacco Road Rivalry

By Emily Peedin



For a little bit of additional context, the name for these feuds stems from a 1932 novel (and, later, the controversial stage play based on said novel) by Erskine Caldwell of the same name. Even though the book is totally unrelated, local sportswriters in the mid-to-late-1930s began utilizing the name to describe the tobacco-rich area that these schools call home. This was, of course, before Wake Forest had moved to Winston-Salem. Although the rivalry's origins are definitively set in basketball, any active student at these institutions nowadays is likely to tell you that these rivalries are seen and felt in any and all sports. Just go to an Instagram comment section when these universities are competing, and there is proof aplenty.

While the existence of the rivalries along the Tobacco Road are undeniable, there is so much more to connect these institutions beyond the playing field. Every year, the U.S. News & World Report ranks national universities based on a variety of factors, such as academics, cost, campus life and more. Out of the 436 universities ranked, Duke is tied for sixth, UNC-Chapel Hill tied for 27th, Wake Forest tied for 46th, and NC State tied for 58th. The fact that all of these universities are so close together in terms of both physical locale and rankings is truly impressive, allowing North Carolinians to be proud of many higher education offerings in their state. Beyond overall rankings, however, there is also an abundance of research being put out by the faculty and students of these institutions, furthering humanity's knowledge on a wide breadth of salient topics.

Finally, though, what I would argue is the most important connection between these universities is the constant, unyielding support from each other's student bodies. As much as we hate to admit it, our campus is no stranger to tragedy. Just think of all of the students who took their own lives a couple of years ago. As someone who was on campus during that time, I can vividly remember scrolling through social media and seeing so much support from other students in the Triangle, something that was desperately needed during such a heartbreaking time. I would say that the same kind of support was given to another student body when, just over a year ago, a gunman killed a faculty member on UNC-Chapel Hill's campus. Although these two examples are quite extreme, there are countless other smaller examples – like coming together to support various social and political causes – that exemplify this support as well.

All in all, despite the fact that I would rather sit naked on a hot grill than wear Carolina blue, I do believe there are quite a few positives to being connected to these other institutions, even going beyond the physical, tangible products, initiatives, research and more being produced. In my almost four years here at NC State, I cannot count the numerous times I have witnessed students from all of these institutions supporting each other in times of trouble and hardship, putting our rivalries aside and caring for each other on a human-tohuman level – something I would argue makes for the best kind of win, and something that proves that we are stronger together. As we go about our day-to-day lives as students of such a unique university, I urge us all to remember that the only place for the Tobacco Road rivalry lies in sports!



**ROUNDABOUT FALL 2024** 

# **Backyard Treks and Trails Worth Traveling For**

By Layney Keesee

As a kid, I spent many of my breaks from school at various parks and nature trails.

A North Carolina native and a child who got bored of the same playground over and over again, I frequently employed my mom to find new parks for us to visit as a family. I've reached deep into my childhood memories and summoned up that child-like free spirit to compile this list — but with a few recommendations that are quite a hike from Raleigh, as well as others that prove to be challenging for those who aren't as accustomed to exploring the great outdoors.

#### **Crowder County Park - Apex, NC**

Crowder Park is one I hold especially fondly in my memories. With two separate playgrounds and a simple trail, Crowder County Park is great for all ages. While those seeking a true hiking experience may find this nature trail too simple, it's great for those days when you want to stop and smell the roses — or rather, crunch those crispy fall leaves. With plenty of large overhangs and a pond to watch the ducks and turtles swim by, this location is perfect for an early fall picnic.

#### Yates Mill County Park - Raleigh, NC

One year, my family's Christmas card pictures were in front of this very mill. Historic and full of charm, Yates Mill is another close jaunt from NC State's campus. It's an easy trail, unless, of course, you choose to climb the large rocks in front of the mill. The park offers tours of the mill's facilities, and the visitor center holds several artifacts from the location's past. While the trail itself is relatively flat and cyclical, this park is also accompanied by a pond and a picturesque bridge, perfect for those who love to chat while they walk.

#### Raven Rock State Park - Lillington, NC

Lillington, home to Campbell University, is also home to one of several North Carolina State Parks, the beloved Raven Rock. Or at least I love it, as it's just a quick 20 minutes from my hometown. However, from Raleigh, this series of trails requires a 45-minute road trip. Despite its distance from campus, the park hosts several activities, including biking, horseback riding, camping, paddling and several true hiking trails of varying difficulty. Making the trip out to Lillington is absolutely worth it for this park.

#### **Linville Falls - Morganton, NC**

Last on the list is the farthest distance from Raleigh at a staggering 3 hours and 45 minutes. Just outside of Plumtree, North Carolina lies a beautiful waterfall and, at times, a challenging uphill hike. If your fall break plans align with a trip to Grandfather Mountain, Linville Falls is a perfect stopping point. With four overlooks and the ability to hike behind the waterfall, this final location on my list is a perfect mountain adventure to experience on your next visit to the Appalachian mountains.

A fallen blossom

Is coming back to the branch

Look, a butterfly.

By Moritake

Big bear on the street,

Big bear has berries they eat,

Big bear has big feet.

By Gerband Poster

Why is this so hard,
This sentence is really ten syllables,
Someone please help me!

By Gerband Poster

## **Stop and Go:**

# A Brief Guide to the Iconic American Road Trip Stops

By Nora Belter, Photos and Photo Illustration by Emily Peedin

Heading out on a road trip? If you'll be traveling for more than a few hours, or if some of your companions are (or act like) small children, you'll need to make some stops. Allow me to guide you through the options you'll encounter, including their pros, cons and the type of traveler suited to each.

#### **Gas Stations**

Those who know exactly what road snacks they're looking for, where they're going and how quickly they want to arrive will be perfectly suited to any gas station they encounter. Beware, however, of the potential traumas awaiting you in the bathrooms, as this stop on your journey may awaken you to the inhumanity of much of our species. However, if you can keep your eyes closed during your bathroom experience and focus only on your favorite snacks, drinks and slushies, this efficient and relatively distraction-free stop (besides trying to find your name on a keychain) is perfectly suited for the traveler who wants to arrive at their destination in a timely manner while still enjoying comforts on the way.



Prices for three different types of fuel are on display at a Shell gas station on Oct. 4. Most gas stations often provide travelers with a quick place to use the restroom, acquire snacks and load up on fuel before hitting the road once more.

#### Buc-ee's

More of a spiritual experience than a gas station, Buc-ee's is the Disney World of road trip stops. Well, besides the actual Disney World. Primarily populated by rednecks and the occasional screaming child, Buc-ee's has become somewhat of a pilgrimage for modern American travelers. Besides providing the opportunity to use the "cleanest restrooms in America," Buc-ee's is also a great way to truly immerse yourself in the South. It's important, though, to dedicate a good few hours — and a few hundred bucks — to your Buc-ee's stop, because if you don't leave with at least one of every object they have adorned with that beaver's beautiful face, then what are you even there for?

#### **Mom-and-Pop Shops**

If your idea of a road trip leans away from simple transportation and towards an opportunity to intertwine your soul with those of strangers, a mom-and-pop store in the middle of nowhere is the perfect choice. While you may feel like you will soon be kidnapped by the one, or possibly two, employees and their overly welcoming natures, this likely only happens in movies. Instead, you can enjoy a recap of both yours and the strangers' places of birth, childhood experiences, educational journeys and future plans while picking up snacks and treats you've never heard of. While not likely to be a quick stop, you can be sure you'll leave with fascinating stories for those waiting at your destination.

#### **Rest Areas**

Whether you're hoping to spend as much time on the road as at your destination or you're looking to arrive as quickly as possible, a public rest area is a great place to take a break. If you have no appreciation for the small beauties of life, you can get in and out and on your way in only a few minutes. On the other hand, if you actually value the life you've been given, you can pack a blanket and a picnic spread, bring your dog and enjoy the great outdoors for a while. Or not. Don't let me tell you what to do.

#### Walmart

While not a popular stop for many, Walmart is one of my own family's favorites. It's severely underrated as a road trip stop, if I do say so myself, well-suited for those who always require a kitchen's worth of snacks available, as well as those who tend to remember something they've forgotten every five minutes. It is advised, however, to keep all phones off Do Not Disturb, as the vast landscape of a foreign Walmart will surely result in a lost road trip buddy or two.



The Walmart Supercenter located at 4500 Fayetteville Rd., pictured here on Oct. 4, supplies a wide variety of goods for their customers, from groceries to home furnishings. With over 4,500 locations in the United States, this retail chain is quite easy to access while traveling on the road.

#### The Side of the Road



## Judgement

# • Goofing

Read it and weep — with laughter!

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Good Vibes



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#### By Layney Keesee

Tree. Bricks. Construction. Grass field. The four most common I sights you'll notice while walking through NC State's main campus. Despite our horticulture department being renowned across the state, it's frequently overlooked. The reality of the matter is technological advancements, while undoubtedly making our lives easier, have also made us ignore the natural beauty of our surroundings. In comparison to many other issues that take priority in our day-to-day lives, plant blindness may seem inconsequential, but frequent access to lush green scenery is actually vital to our mental and physical health! Several studies have suggested that time spent in nature can improve an individual's creativity, focus and problem-solving skills. A short walk through trees can lower blood pressure and reduce stress. You don't have to be the one gardening to reap the benefits, either! Try studying, hanging out with friends or just sitting by yourself outside for an hour or two and let the blissful fall air take the weight of midterms off your shoulders. Maybe you'll even discover a new love for our green little friends.

Did it work? Are you fiending for some new houseplants now? Me too. One problem, though: college students are notoriously broke and indubitably busy with several responsibilities. If you live on campus, this can be remedied by just stepping outside; many dorms have some sort of outdoor space nearby. If you're lucky enough to live in Tucker, Owen, Turlington or Alexander Halls (lovingly called TOTA by its inhabitants), you've got several options. The best part about this method of getting that green thumb? It's totally free and maintained for you. But what if you live off campus? With gas prices these days, I wouldn't drive to campus just to sit outside, either. But what's cheaper than a full tank of gas? A couple plants from the Walmart

garden center. Having a few plants inside is a good substitute for spending time outdoors, especially if you live in a more metropolitan area or during North Carolina's frequently bipolar weather. Succulents and ferns are notoriously hearty plants, and will survive with the relatively low maintenance of occasional watering and some sunlight. They're also a dime a dozen, cheap and easy to find. Miss your dog? Glue some googly eyes on the pot and name the lil' fella. There is scientific evidence to support that talking to plants helps them thrive, so try telling your new friend about your day. They'll be the quietest and most respectful roommates you'll ever have.

If your interest is piqued and you'd like to do some slightly more intensive gardening, NC State is home to our very own horticulture club! Check them out on instagram at **@horticultureclubncsu** or catch them in Kilgore Hall!

ROUNDABOUT FALL 2024

## make a Trail Mix and We'll Tell you Who you Are on the Road Trip

By Will LaMarche, Designed by Marlowe Henderson

Build a Trail-Mix, and we'll tell your role your on the Road-Trip is

#### 1. Pick a favorite nut

- Pecans (or is it pe-cons?)
- Dry-roasted peanuts
- Trader Joe's macadamia nuts
- Very plain almonds

#### 3. Throw in Some Seeds or grains

- Sunflower seeds
- Pumpkin seeds (so fall-core)
- Granola
- Flax seeds (where did you even get these??)

#### maybe something else too?

- Another fistful of M&Ms
- Pretzels
- Dried goji berries
- Wheat Chex

#### 2. How about Something Sweet?

- M&Ms
- Goldfish (for sillies)
- Dried fruit
- Peanut butter chips

#### It wouldn't be trail mix without a li'l chocolate

- Milk chocolate chips
- Semi-sweet chips
- Dark chocolate chips
- None for me:)

# Personality Hire

If you chose **mostly A's** then you've got a crazy sweet tooth; you're the personality hire!

You're definitely keeping the mood up on the trip, especially with that stellar playlist you made. Inside you, there is a catalog of popular and obscure games, riddles and thought-puzzles. And, in case that fails, you have a downloaded catalog of the group's favorite movies on your phone.

You're bringing the energy, but sometimes people need their zone-out time. Don't be hurt if no one is in the mood for another round of I spy or wants to put their headphones in. They'll be looking for your company again soon enough.

### Planner

If you chose **mostly B's**, this trail mix is looking pretty salty. Good thing a planner like you made sure to bring water.

First and foremost, we'll give you your congratulatory roses for planning the budget, places to stop for gas, packing extra water and snacks, and scribing all of the directions down on paper in case your phone and the backup GPS fail. You're the backbone of this trip.

But with all that, don't endeavor to follow your plan to a tee. While everyone loves getting to turn their brain off and have fun on the ride, remember that it's okay to let someone else take the wheel, literally or metaphorically. Sure, you brought snacks, but a gas-station snack run never hurt anybody! Besides, we're sure you brought the Tums just in case.



If you chose **mostly C's**, your trail mix is probably looking a little crunchy, if you catch my drift; you're the off-the-beaten path friend.

You bring a certain level of whimsy to the road trip. You're the type of person to ask, "Can we please stop at the giant dresser," or, "That field is so scenic, can we take pictures?" It's not a road trip without some adventure!

But let's not forget the adventure in front of us. Tragically, there is no perfect trip where every stop gets made, especially the ones that may not actually be stops. You know it's about the journey, not the destination, but bear in mind that the destination is the reason for the journey.



### Routine

If you chose **mostly D's**, I'm going to hazard a guess and say you might be a little sporty; you're the routine friend.

Look, being the routine guy doesn't sound cool, we get it. But it comes in handy! You work really well with the planner type to make sure we hit everything on the road trip. You also help remind them that it's not always practical to stay seated in a car for six hours straight.

We did also want to remind you this is The Scenic Route. You don't have to load on carbs for a run. We all know you're fun to be around, but don't sweat the small things. You'll have plenty of routine the rest of your life, relax a little.





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## **Hay Rides:** The Final Frontier

By Audrey Javan, Photos by Emily Peedin

Only a select few people know this about me — mostly because I often forget it about myself — but for a year when I was very young, I lived in Ohio. Ah, the midwest. Even though I was born there, I don't think about it much. Probably since I gave it up for the south at 4 years old and I didn't have the physical ability to make many strong memories of it. But where my memories have faded, the photos in my mom's albums stand warm and clear. One of them, taken on a bright day when the leaves were the colors you only see in movies, shows my older brother and me sitting sweater-clad and beaming atop a conquered hill of hay bales. That, for the longest time, was my only hay encounter. In my heart, though, I always knew that I was missing something.

A hay ride.



Audrey Javan, a fourth-year studying English, smiles during a hay ride at Page Farms on Oct. 4. Page Farms' fall season lasts until November 2.



An employee of Page Farms drives the tractor leading the hay ride at Page Farms on Oct. 4. The hay ride took guests around the property, showing them farm animals and picturesque views.

There's no way to know when hay rides were invented, since it was very much transportation first and a leisurely fall activity second. Legend says that kids and farm hands used to ride in the backs of loaded hay wagons to rest on the way back to the barns, and that this image traveled to urban families through idealized picture books. As tourism to the countryside became more popular, farmers realized they could make extra money by charging summer travelers for leisurely hay rides. Farms today maintain the tradition.

The weather has only just started to feel truly autumnal, so in an early ploy to get into the seasonal mood, an excursion was needed. Page Farms lies some 20-odd minutes from campus, and for just \$12 on a Friday morning, you get access to endless cheer through various games, handmade slides, a corn maze and a cute pumpkin of your choice. As soon as I got the bright orange wristband on and was unleashed upon the fields, the childlike wonder hit me like. I saw everything through camcorder vision, à la 2007 come back to life: vibrant photo ops scattered around the pine straw, free-roaming turkeys the height of a 4-year-old, cute informational signs about bees and pumpkins. Beyond a fence by the pumpkin patch, three tractors idled with colorful hay-lined wagons hooked to the back. If hay rides really are a historic tourist trap, then consider this Raleigh local tourist-trapped!

Emily Peedin, our beloved photo editor, godesss, came along with me to my first hay ride experience, half as a worker to take photos, and half as a good friend of mine who wanted to have a good time. Getting pulled around in the cart, clutching her fancy camera for its dear life, she said, "Hay rides are America's 'Bridgerton."

From where I sat — a souvenir piece of hay in my pocket, an up-close view of large black cows cooling off in a pond, the smell of wet earth, gasoline and grass washing over me — I couldn't agree more. Maybe if they traveled through this instead of horse-and-carriage, they wouldn't have so much drama! (I've never watched the show.)



Audrey Javan, a fourth-year studying English, slides down a slide at Page Farms on Oct. 4. Page Farms has been in operation since 1922.

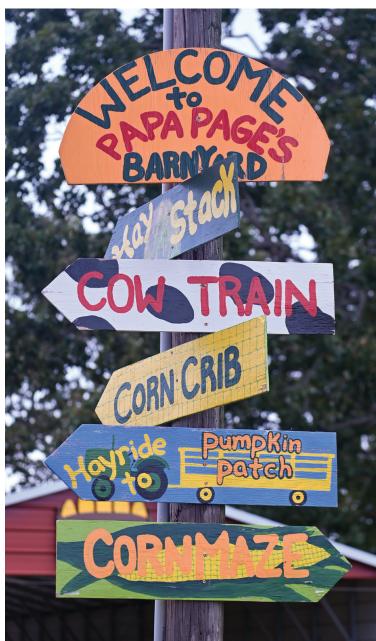
Hay rides have a long history, and a beloved present... but what of their future? Maybe we decide that they're simply too good to relegate to just one season, and so each season gets their own themed flatbed adventure. Beware of the flower rides in the spring, though, especially if you're allergic to bees. Maybe, once we break even and realize that gas cars are a dead end and electric cars are too expensive, we return to the tried-and-true transportation of yore. Riding down I-40 at a steady 10 mph, taking in the sights and sipping a drink? What could be better!



A pumpkin sits snug in the dirt at Page Farms on Oct. 4. With admission to the farm, attendees were allowed to pick a petite pumpkin to take home with them.

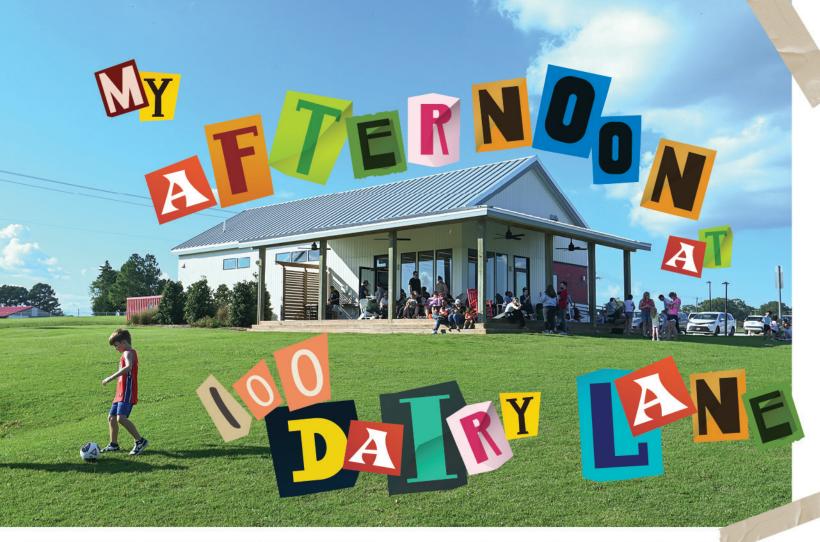
Or maybe, it'll go even further than that. With hay rides claiming popularity through many avenues over the centuries, constantly shifting with the demand and visions of the times, one can only imagine that the trend will only go up from here: from practical transportation to leisure cruise to — perhaps — luxury space travel. Just imagine it! You get in line for the spaceship, already holding a perfectly fat pumpkin, and you get to lounge in the hay-lined hull while you look out the porthole. Instead of passing by fields of yellowing grain, you're sailing along the glittering waves of the milky way.

Hay rides took us down the Oregon Trail (they didn't, but doesn't it kind of feel like they did?) and someday, I just know they'll bring us to the new frontier. It took me this long to get to a hay ride on earth, but I hope and pray that when the hay rides to the stars kick off, I get to be the first in line.



Signs detailing various activities point passersby in the right direction at Page Farms on Oct. 4. Page Farms offers a wide range of activities beyond just hay rides, such as a corn maze and pick-your-own-pumpkin patch.

GOOFING ROUNDABOUT FALL 2024



#### By Justin Isaiah Iriarte, Photos by Emily Peedin, Designed by Marlowe Henderson

Located at 100 Dairy Lane is what I believe to be one of our campus' most underrated gems: the Howling Cow Dairy Education Center and Creamery. As a second-year student, I am still shocked it took me as long as it did to make my way from campus to the backroads of Raleigh to experience the sights and sounds of the farm. And with Howling Cow being one of NC State's crowning jewels in terms of relevance amongst both students and Raleigh citizens, it's a rite of passage to have some ice cream here, straight from the source.

With this current issue of Roundabout surrounding the general theme of taking the scenic route, I jumped at the chance to visit the creamery to learn more about the place that produces some of my favorite ice cream flavors ever. I — along with my Roundabout peers Emily Peedin, a fourth-year studying psychology and religious studies, and Marlowe Henderson, a third-year studying graphic & experience design — spent our afternoon at 100 Dairy Lane under the assumption that we were gathering information and material to use for this article. We originally planned to gather notes, photos and inspiration to create a thorough and descriptive review of the farm, but once we arrived, the place's ambiance took over. The cows, the peaceful setting and being amongst friends made us forget why we were there in the first place. Instead of focusing on productivity, we let ourselves unwind, talk and simply enjoy the moment.

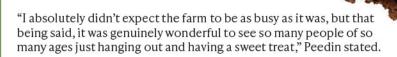
When we pulled into the gravel parking lot and saw the iconic sign, we honestly could not hold back our excitement. Maybe it was the Raleigh heat that made us yearn for a cold treat, or maybe it was the fact that we found the cows on the farm so cute, but I just knew that was what I needed to cure our end-of-week woes.

Patrons enjoy a scenic day at the Howling Cow Dairy Education Center and Creamery on Sept. 20. The creamery not only serves physical treats, but also serves to educate the greater Raleigh community on the making of various dairy products.

Upon our arrival, the line to order was nearly out the door, with a mix of families, students and couples chatting away as they waited. Normally, at this point, my impatience would have kicked in, but the vibe of the interior made me forget all about it. Peedin described it as "quaint, homey, and peaceful," and I couldn't agree more. Similarly, the first thing I noticed was the rustic wood decor, which I blame on my childhood obsession with watching way too much of Ree Drummond's "The Pioneer Woman" on the Food Network. After the line had settled and it was our turn to order, we got our ice creams of choice and found our lounging area on a table outside.

The farm felt like a little escape — kids were running around, their laughter mixing with the distant sound of mooing. We could see small groups of cows, maybe seven or eight in a herd, scattered across the paddocks, their black, white and brown coats striking against the vibrant green grass. Some wandered closer to the fence as if they were just as curious about us as we were about them. Compared to the hustle and bustle of Raleigh, the whole scene was calming, almost as if time had slowed down just for a moment.

A scoop of Wolf Tracks with warm peanut butter sauce and oreo crunch. At the creamery, they serve scoops, splits, sundaes and more.



Peedin, Henderson and I all agreed that what made the day special, at least to us, was spending time with each other and talking each other's ears off.

Amid the chaos and slight anomie we experience as students, it was a much-needed experience to be able to wind down with a quiet afternoon at the farm. Being able to forget about our commitments and slow down for a second helped us grow as friends and to rest our minds. All in all, with the help of my signature order of a butter almond and Campfire Delight milkshake, the views of the cows that provide milk to our campus and the many witty jokes from both Peedin and Henderson, I share my last words of wisdom for those who are reading this: it's okay to step back sometimes. Relaxing is the key to thriving as a student at NC State, and if that, for you, means to be less-than productive while sharing a moment with your friends with some Howling Cow ice cream in your hand, so be it. So please, take the scenic route sometimes and make 100 Dairy Lane your next destination to gain an experience just like ours that you can add to your fantastic memories of your time at NC State.

A cow munches on some grass outside the Howling Cow Dairy Education Center and Creamery on Oct. 4. There are over 300 cows producing milk on the farm. Judgement

Goofing

# • Good Vibes

If articles were treats, these would be ice cream: short, sweet, worry-melting, mood-lifting

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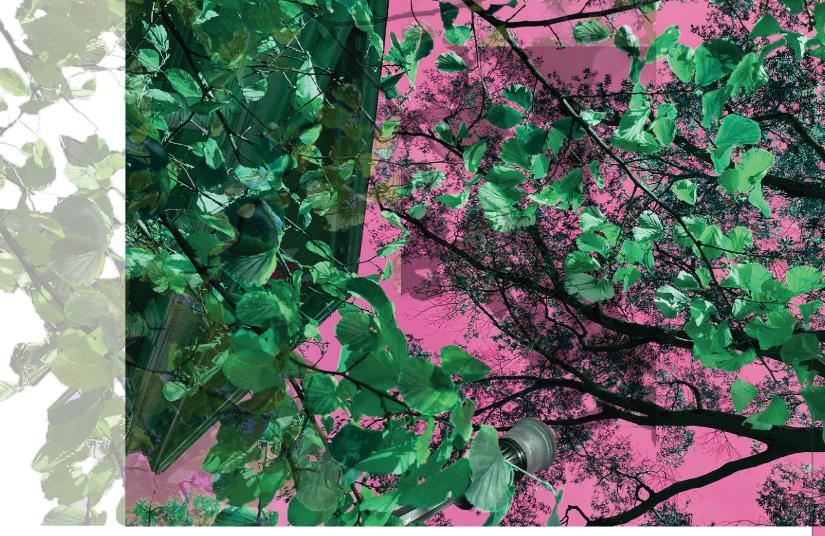
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# **Stroll Through the Soul:** A Guide to Mindful Walking on Campus

By Nimet Betul Karatas



#### What is Mindfulness?

Mindfullness is a skill, so you can practice it; it's the state of being fully present and engaged with what you're doing. Using a grounding method can help you reconnect your body and mind when you notice your thoughts drifting. It's about gently redirecting your focus on the present moment again and again — no need to blame anything when you become distracted. Noticing your distractions is a wonderful opportunity to ground yourself.

#### **Benefits of Mindfulness**

Turning off your mental autopilot creates distance between your current experience and your worries about the past or future, allowing your moments to be more fulfilling.

You can start to appreciate the beautiful scenery and nature on campus.

You can begin to notice how the people around you carry themselves, and maybe even engage and *connect with others* through their current experiences.

Mindfulness is a free and easy opportunity to get into the habit of staying in the present moment.

It can serve as a beginner-friendly meditation to help you practice skills that can be applied to more traditional meditation exercises.

Improving mind-body connectivity is shown to reduce anxiety, improve sleep quality, enhance cognitive function and more. It can also help you perform better in anxiety-inducing situations, like schoolwork and interpersonal relationships.

Overall, it can serve as the groundwork to remaining calm and grounded when facing difficult situations.

Here is a guide for a simple mindfulness activity on your next walk to class:

1. Start with setting an intention that encourages you to step into the present moment.

#### . Tune inward without changing:

#### Movement in your body.

Notice contact between your feet and the ground, how your legs are moving, your weight shifting from one leg to the other, and your posture and speed of steps.

#### The breath.

Pay attention to the speed, length or rhythm of your breath and where in your body you are feeling the expansion of each inhale and release of each exhale.

#### 3. Tune outward with curiosity:

Environment and people.

Notice around you,
the sounds you hear,
the red things you see,
whether there is a crowd around you,
and how other people are walking.

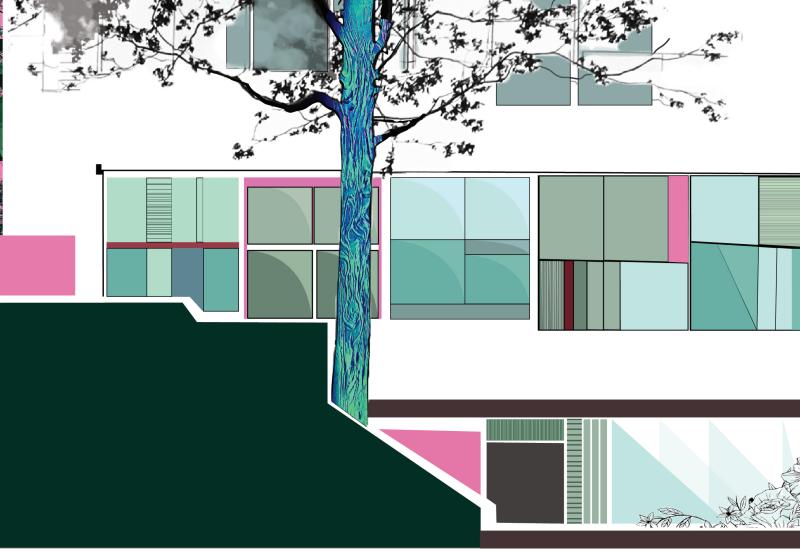
4. End by **tuning back in** and notice how you feel. There is no right or wrong way to feel at the end of this practice.

Campus is your space to simply be and stepping your foot into mindfulness can be how you start to show up for yourself every day.

#### **A Common Misconception**

Mindfulness and meditation do not require you to stop thinking or feel fully relaxed! There is not a right or wrong way to be present.

Think about a time when you were present in the past, like a moment throwing jokes around with friends or petting a dog on campus. In those moments, you were perhaps noticing more than your thoughts. Maybe you were noticing your friends and the jokes, or the color of the dog and how it felt in your hands to pet it. Redirect your attention to other things that are also present in the moment



8 GOOD VIBES ROUNDABOUT FALL 2024

Wide Open Spaces: Highlighting Raleigh's Top Outdoor Music Venues

By Sarah Hildreth, Photos by Emily Peedin

North Carolina has long been known for its beautiful landmarks and legendary music. Artists and bands ranging from J. Cole, The Avett Brothers, Nia Simone, Luke Combs, James Taylor and Raleigh's very own American Aquarium. From the Appalachian Mountains to our stunning east coast beaches, artists from all over have created music in every genre. North Carolina is a place where music and nature intertwine poetically.

Outdoor music venues are ideal for fostering a connection between nature and music. Raleigh is home to three amazing outdoor amphitheaters every music lover should attend. Through wide open spaces and acoustics, Red Hat Amphitheater, NCMA Amphitheater and Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek bring friends, families and strangers close together.

Red Hat Amphitheater is located on South McDowell Street, right in downtown Raleigh. Red Hat was constructed in 2010 and throughout the past 14 years it has welcomed over 400 musicians. The amphitheater has ample space to dance and move around wherever the music takes you, with its 6,000-person capacity of seats and lawn areas. The scenery is truly something special – you are able to see the tall city lights ringing the venue and, behind the crowd, the Cree Shimmer Wall on the side of the Raleigh Convention Center. As the sun sets behind the stage during summer night concerts, you are greeted by the beautiful side of industrialization. Red Hat Amphitheater is a place where you feel one with not only the people around you, but the whole city of Raleigh. Red Hat is an amazing place for concerts, and I encourage you to check out their new and upcoming shows this fall! Judah and the Lion and Chase Atlatic will be performing late October. Not only is this venue good for concerts, but starting late November and continuing through January, Red Hat hosts "The Rink," an ice skating rink that you can enjoy with family

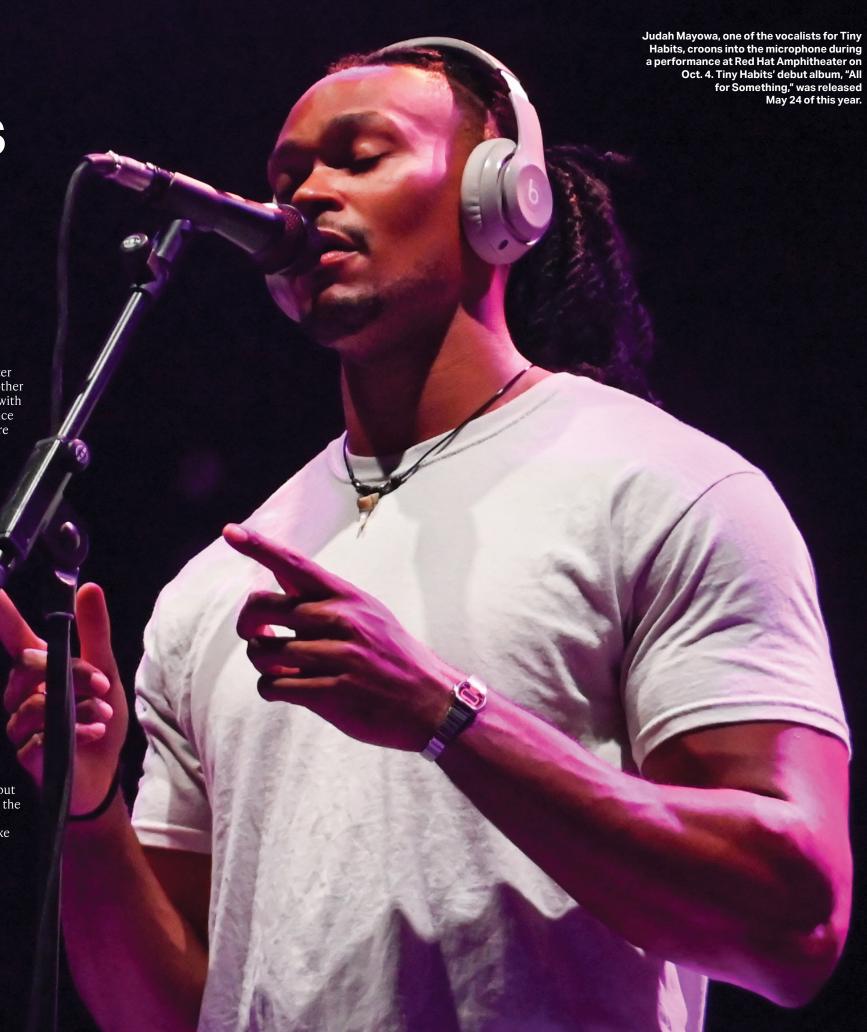
Adjacent to the North Carolina Museum of Art is the NCMA Amphitheater. As an extension of the art museum, the amphitheater next to the NCMA promotes community cohesion and new experiences through art performances. Wonderful musical performances are highlighted, but so are artistic creations like plays, films, seminars and art exhibitions. At the amphitheater, folk, singersongwriter and Americana are the main recurring genres you will come by when viewing past and upcoming shows. Artists such as

Watchhouse, American Aquarium and Lake Street Drive have performed in past years. You can enjoy the NCMA Amphitheater experience by seeing The String Queens on December 1 and other artists going into 2025. As a smaller venue, it's more intimate with the performer and with nature, which will make your experience unforgettable and possibly beneficial as you leave feeling more connected to nature, music and your community.

If you are looking for a bigger venue that is not as deep in the city, I encourage you to check out the Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek. This amphitheater has a similar but bigger layout to Red Hat, with a capacity of 20,000. The large plot of land allows for plenty of parking as well as space for tailgating, food trucks and stands for the audience to enjoy before the show. This venue has been known to be very family friendly with its larger lawn space wrapped behind the seating area allowing space for children and larger groups. Open space and trees surrounding the venue brings nature's beauty to the down-to-earth experience for all.

Walnut Creek is a place where you can catch a show from many different music genres, including both indie and bigger artists you might know and love, such as Whiskey Myers with JJ Grey & Mofro performing October 26. After that, if you have attended or plan to attend this venue more, Walnut Creek's premium season tickets for the upcoming 2025 year are on sale now!

These key venues in Raleigh will provide fun and memorable moments to come. So grab your tickets and enjoy the music, but also soak in the people, sunsets, good weather, city lights and the art the earth possesses. Music and nature hold generational intelligence and beauty we all can learn from while dancing like nobody's watching.





## Roundabout Staff Summer Recap

By Roundabout Staff

**Marlowe Henderson:** "Here is an image of my boss this summer... STEVE MADDEN! His office had many fun little trinkets, like miscellaneous baseball caps, bobbleheads, a framed photo of Jonah Hill and Leonardo DiCaprio from 'The Wolf of Wall Street' and shoe piles on the floor in no particular order. Steve Madden is a quirky guy with a bit of a temper, but overall, he's incredibly passionate and genuine about people and his shoes."





Emily Peedin: "Being completely candid, I spent most of my summer trapped in a retail job where the coworkers were great and the pay was not. When I was not daydreaming of a life away from the walls of my workplace, I spent most of my time going to concerts and hanging out with friends, family and cats!"

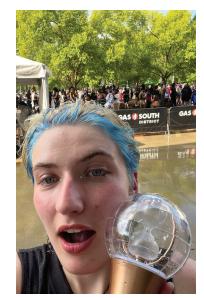


Autumn Tate: "This summer, I went to Arkansas, where my dad is from, for a family reunion where we celebrated the 4th of July with fireworks, had a karaoke sesh, celebrated my auntie's birthday and ate lots of food! It was very sentimental and exciting being able to see my family members in person for the first time in a while. I really enjoyed myself!"



**Peggy the Cat:** "Summer is an eventful season for a creature such as I, when the woodland critters are abundant for the picking and the sun warms my fur to asphalt heat. I spent those warm months prowling, preening and getting so polleny that anyone who pet me would come away with a yellow palm (and probably also a gash or two). I delighted in feeding both my wanderlust and my appetite in preparation for the coming cold."

Audrey Javan: "If you were to stack my summer up vertically and smash it flat in a hydraulic press, you'd see two clear halves: one spent personal-cheffing for my roommates and another spent having a series of crises that resulted in prepping for the LSAT. The shining stars in the middle of all of that were the Ateez concerts in Duluth, Georgia. Ignore the fact that I bawled my eyes out during 'Dancing Like Butterfly Wings.' Any event that gets me to dye my hair blue (and miss two LSAT prep courses) is one to remember, in my eyes."



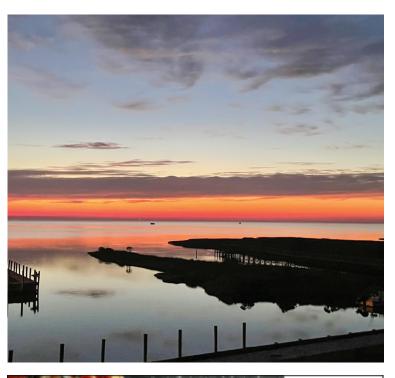


**Layney Keesee:** "Similarly to Emily, I spent about two-thirds of my summer slinging hash brown casserole at a famous country restaurant that shall not be named. When not singing Kendrick Lamar's Drake diss track in the kitchen of said restaurant, I spent my summer incidentally being stranded in Minneapolis and driving to Florida in the middle of Hurricane Debby."



Justin Iriarte: "This summer, I traveled back home to Japan to see my family, eat good food and spend way too much money on things I didn't need. From there, I flew to Guam and spent most of my time lounging at the beach."

**Bran Poster:** "I would like to award myself with the babysitter of the year award for my efforts this summer — regardless of the fact that the only people I babysat were my own siblings, they both refused to listen to me and the greatest accomplishment we achieved during the time of my matronship was watching the entire Trolls franchise. Also, I went to the beach! Yay!"





GOOD VIBES ROUNDABOUT FALL 2024

# Clubs 'Round the Campfire: Some NC State Clubs to Get You Outside

By Alannah Anderson, Designed by Jup Poster and Marlowe Henderson

Okay, you've got first dibs on picking a seat at the campfire. This is a big deal. You want to find the perfect partner-in-crime for s'mores-making who knows their way around the great outdoors. Well, the good news is that you've got some nice contenders. They might not all take you down the same path, since some are biased towards creeks and streams, but time spent with any of these clubs will surely provide you with a literal breath of fresh air. Others who might prefer time spent inside... well, they might be best suited for a different Roundabout issue.



#### Ski Club

If you're heading to woods or mountains with lots of snow, Ski Club has got you covered. Based around skiing and snowboarding for recreation, this club is definitely down to have a good time. Not only do they like to go on regular trips to climates colder than Raleigh, but they also like to keep things local; if you enjoy helping out your neighboring communities, then this is the club for you. Ski Club regularly runs food and hygiene drives for local communities around NC State. You get to have a fun time in the snow and help make people's lives a little better. Want to snow (get it?) some more? Reach out to **recreationalskiclub@ncsu.edu** or follow **@ncsuclubski**.



#### National Parks Club

Our fiercest competitor: the National Parks Club. As the name suggests, they are all about learning and traveling to national parks. The club fosters a campfire-level of warmth that invites you to dive deeper into what it means to be in nature, how to take care of our environment and the importance of giving back to these natural communities. Even if you prefer to enjoy nature from a distance, National Parks Club offers engaging educational activities through professional or peerled discussions and just overall fun college things to do, like movie and game nights. If you're ready to climb some mountains, though, know that the club has gone to Raven Rock State Park, NC State's very own Agroecology farm and Big Lake at William B. Umstead State Park to name a few. For more information or if you have questions, reach out to **nationalparksclub@ncsu.edu** via email or follow **@nationalparksclub** on Instagram.



#### Sailpack

While they may not be exactly hike-oriented, Sailing Club, or Sailpack, will certainly be able to get you through choppy waters. These folks will help you get sailing certified so you can enjoy the pretty views of Lake Crabtree, and they know how to have a mean cookout while they're at it. Not simultaneously, of course — those boats can't exactly fit a grill. Plus, if it turns out you quite enjoy sailing, they do sail competitively and offer longer sailing trips for those interested. If you like going out and having fun, then you're in for a treat. Sailpack hosts holiday parties, semi-formals and game nights. Feeling ready to set sail, but have some questions? Reach out to <code>info@sailpack.org</code> or follow <code>@sailpack</code> on Instagram.



#### Backpacking Club

Another tough contender, Backpacking Club knows how to have an adventure. You may not have any backpacking experience, but they don't judge — they're here to help you. They'll take you hiking and camping, and you'll get a chance to build those back muscles by carrying your backpack loaded with gear and food! If you're already a backpacking professional, they also offer more advanced trips that can have a lot more mileage or a more challenging trail. If you're not into the camping part, though, you can also join them on local, half-day hikes that require no sleeping bag or tent. To celebrate the hard work you will achieve with this group, Backpacking Club holds many kinds of fun events, like pizza parties, dinners, games and movie nights. Contact them at backpackingclub@ncsu.edu or follow @ncstatebackpackingclub.

#### Student Fisheries Society

Last, but not least, is the Student Fisheries Society. They are a dedicated, fun group of people who certainly know a lot about fish. Their knowledge doesn't stop there, though! Student Fisheries Society has knowledge about fisheries, habitats, ecology, identification and more which they invite you to learn about. They host trivia and game nights, extremely informative student and professional presentations, as well as field trips that get you out amongst the fish. Challenging you to learn more about aquatic environments and have fun at the same time, this club is definitely a favorite of this writer. From personal experience, this club is a great way to learn more or just be out in nature. If you're fishing for more info, reach out to dmraburn@ncsu.edu or follow the club @ncsustudentfisheries.



## **Cruise Control: Staff Road Trip Playlist**

By Roundabout Staff, Designed by Marlowe Henderson

#### Added to Queue

#### Emily's Pick



California Sober
Post Malone, Chris Stapleton

If you even remotely know me, you know how obsessed I have been with Post Malone's "F-1 Trillion." As a longtime Posty fan, I think this venture into his Texan roots really paid off, with each and every song on the album (and its deluxe version) cementing him among the same country icons he collaborated with. This specific song would make for such a good road trip song with its elaborate storytelling and sweet southern soul.

#### Clementine's Pick



Drivin' on 9

In addition to having a thematically relevant title, this is just a super cute and almost sleepy-sounding little song. Fun fact: Route 9 actually does run through North Carolina, making this song all the more perfect for your road trip playlist.

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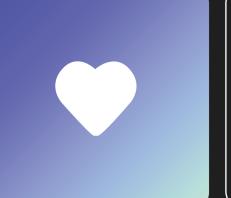
#### Nora's Pick



Heart Cooks Brain Modest Mouse



This track can only truly be explained as "moving vehicle music." Like others on its absolute feat of an LP, it evokes feelings of unease and unfamiliarity, but, supported by one of my favorite guitar riffs of all time, it absolutely comes alive as the soundtrack to the start of a journey. The lyrics contain only fragments of ideas and unattractive imagery, crafting strangely beautiful stories that listeners can ponder for the duration of their drives.





Layney's Pick

Free Bird
Lynyrd Skynyrd



Anyone who's ever rode in my car has been forced to listen to this certified Southern rock classic at one time or another. The beginning half is somber and reflective, perfect for drives through the Appalachian mountains or the Piedmont's rolling countryside. The several-minute long guitar solo is ideal for once you've hit the highway. Personally, I've never felt more liberated.

#### Chase's Pick



7 Summers
Morgan Wallen

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My friends and I went on a beach trip. They introduced me to this song as we were traveling down a long stretch of road with the windows down and the weather feeling great. Every time I hear this song, I think of that trip and my friends from high school, so it's not only nostalgic for summer, but also old friendships.

#### Justin's Pick



Soak Up the Sun Sheryl Crow

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I hate to be a cliché, but it's true what they say about life being about the journey and not the destination. Sure, making it to wherever you're trying to go is the main objective of a road trip, but screaming the songs that you know maybe three lyrics is what ramps up a trip. "Soak Up the Sun" is that song for me. Call me a mom who is stuck in the '90s, but Sheryl Crow is, and always will be, on my driving playlist rotation.

#### Autumn's Pick



HERicane Lucky Daye

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My favorite genre of music has to be R&B, so I'm surprised that I didn't discover this artist sooner! Recently, I've been loving listening to his music, especially when I'm doing homework or working on projects (coincidentally, right now). This song specifically is upbeat and funky, making it perfect for road trips! His music mainly consists of R&B tracks, but he has music ranging from soul/R&B to jazz and sentimental ballads as well. I highly recommend checking him out!

#### Marlowe's Pick



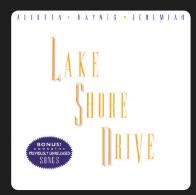
Ventura Highway

America, George Martin

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This song, like many America songs, is about traveling a long distance and feeling free. The lyrics describe driving down a long, winding California highway, and added to the airy strokes of steel-string guitar, it transports you behind the wheel of a '70s convertible. The instrumentation evokes the orange and yellow of a warm sunset. "Ventura Highway" makes me feel nostalgic for a time period I never lived in, and it's the perfect song for any scenic drive.

#### Audrey's Pick



Lake Shore Drive

Aliotta Haynes Jeremia

I've never been to Chicago, but every time I listen to this song, I get transported to that magical road on the coast of Lake Michigan — I feel every streetlight viscerally. The driving saloon-clamor of piano and strings fords the car down the road like it's on rocket fuel, and with easy lyrics and a key that's easy to shout-sing to, it's one of the best songs to listen to with the windows down, "Friday night trouble bound."

#### Bran's Pick



**Peppa Pig Trap Remix** High C

I'm convinced that a statistically significant percentage of global road rage is induced by this song, whether directly or by anger-inducing sonic waves traveling through etherspace. If you're a tot trying to see how much you can annoy your parents or just a masochist, I highly recommend this song for any and all road excursions.



# ONCMNS Downtown Raleigh

NORTH CAROLINA Museum of Natural Sciences