

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Position: Backpacking Specialist

Desired Qualifications:

- Training and experience in backpacking, environmental education, and outdoor living skills
- Ability to teach and supervise campers
- Desire and ability to work with children outdoors
- Ability to relate to one's peer group
- Ability to accept supervision and guidance
- Good character, integrity, and adaptability
- Enthusiasm, sense of humor, good judgment, patience, and self control
- At least 19 years old or 18 with one year of college
- Current CPR and Wilderness First Aid or higher certification preferred

Responsible To: Directors, Assistant Director, Program Director, and Backpacking Director

Camp Goals: To provide a safe, non-competitive, largely team-oriented wilderness adventure program through which children can have fun, make friends, and build self confidence by tackling challenges and developing new skills.

General Responsibilities:

- To assist in teaching and helping coordinate the camp's environmental education and outdoor living skills program, and help maintain standards that lead to a quality program
- To conduct day hikes and overnight backpack trips
- To supervise campers, including enforcing safety regulations
- To identify and meet camper needs
- To carry out camp programs
- To fulfill other staff administrative roles

Specific Responsibilities:

- To set up environmental education and outdoor living skills work and storage area during staff training
- To conduct a pre-activity check of equipment for safety, cleanliness, and good repair
- To make (or file for) equipment repairs
- To submit orders for equipment and supplies when needed, with approval of the Director, ensuring timely arrival of equipment and supplies

- To create and implement a check-out and return system for equipment
- To assist in writing plans that will foster participants' outdoor living skills and environmental sensitivity
- To assist in planning trips based on campers' skills and endurance, including day hikes and multiple day/night backpacking trips
- To teach the environmental education program and outdoor living skills and monitor proper use of equipment by campers and specialists
- To provide opportunities for campers to process and learn from their experience
- To assist in keeping records on all participants and to help them build confidence and gain skills
- To assist in conducting initial and end-of-season inventory, storing, and keeping equipment in good condition
- To assist in award recognition and participation certificates to campers, when earned
- To fulfill the specific responsibilities of General Counselor
- To assist in evaluating the current season and make recommendations for equipment, supplies, and the program for the following season
- These are not the only duties to be performed. Some duties may be reassigned and other duties may be assigned as required

#### Essential Functions:

- Cognitive and communication abilities to plan and conduct group and individual activities to achieve camp goals
- Ability to observe camper behavior, assess its appropriateness, enforce appropriate safety regulations and emergency procedures, and apply appropriate behavior-management techniques
- Ability to inspect equipment for safety, cleanliness, and good repair, and to effect (or file for) repairs
- Possess strength, endurance, and ability required to maintain constant supervision of campers and to lead backpack trips of at least two days, one night duration
- Ability to carry out all duties at an elevation of at least 8,500 feet
- Possess physical ability to carry a 40lb backpack, to move six miles per day over mountain trails, to set up and strike camp, build a shelter, build a camp fire, cook, and navigate using a topographical map and compass and GPS
- Visual and auditory ability to identify and respond to environmental and other hazards related to camper activities
- Physical ability to respond appropriately to situations requiring first aid and CPR, to assist campers in emergency situations (fire, evacuation, illness, injury and rescue), and to communicate via radio and telephone to summon help