

2009-10 Graduate Assistant Outdoor Programs

Position: Outdoor Programs Graduate Assistant

Classification: Graduate Assistantship

Description:

The Outdoor Programs office provides support and programming in the following areas to the USD community: Outdoor Adventure Trips and Customized Trips, REACH/ELP- teambuilding program, Equipment rental and resource area, Outdoor- Resident Learning Community, Eco-LEEP (Living, Engaged Educational Program) and Orientation Adventure Freshman Outing. Please see below for further information and more details about the individual areas. The Outdoor Programs GA will have the opportunity to work with all or some of the programs listed above.

General Duties:

1. GA will coordinate with Director/Assistant Director of Outdoor Program to be assigned special projects within Outdoor Programs that best fit the needs and interest of both the program and the GA. Projects will be assigned based on special interest area(s). Desired 2009-2010 special projects include the following areas: (Graduate Assistants will take on one or more of the areas listed below based on interest and experience)
 - a. **Marketing:** Manage overall marketing initiatives for the department which includes existing and new initiatives for each program area. Marketing initiatives will include physical, virtual, and interpersonal approaches.
 - b. **Program Coordination:** Take ownership of planning and organizing selected trips from the trip schedule. Fully complete the items on trip coordinator list such as local area research, risk management assessment and paperwork, coordination of student 'guides', gear reservations, packing lists, and group use permits, etc.
 - c. **Program Manual:** Compile, organize and package policies, procedures and training resources for the Outdoor Adventures, Customized Trips and/or ELP program staff and volunteers. The result will be a tangible manual that will be a written resource for staff/volunteers to assist in the implementation of successful programs.
2. Share Customer Service staff responsibility when present in the office.
3. Attend weekly planning meetings with Director and/or Assistant Director of Outdoor Programs.
4. Attend/conduct appropriate staff meetings as needed.
5. Attend Graduate Assistant training in August and January/February.
6. Complete monthly statistical support for program specialty within Outdoor Programs.
7. On site advising/support during specified programs.

General Information:

The assistantship will be a learning experience supervised by the Director or Assistant Director of Outdoors Programs who will provide guidance and support. The successful applicant must be a USD graduate student in good standing and preferably have experience or interest in outdoor recreation. This graduate assistantship will require approximately twenty (20) hours per week. Weekend and evening hours will be required as well as attending one to two regional and national collegiate conferences for student leaders.

Salary: \$__10.40_ per hour (not to exceed \$10,000 for the year)

Term: July (must start by August 1st) through end of May and averages 20 hours of involvement per week.

*Please contact Tina Thompson at christina@sandiego.edu or Brett Faulknor at bfaulknor@sandiego.edu for more information about this GA position. To apply for the position, please submit resume and cover letter to the email above.

Outdoor Programs: Summary of Programming

Trips Program:

Our outings, workshops, and/or trips are lead by current USD students, USD Alumni, and/or USD Staff who are participating in the Guide Development Program. These trips are designed to give students the opportunity to get out into the outdoors and experience many activities such as kayaking, rock climbing, and backpacking, that they wouldn't necessarily normally attempt on their own. We provide a structured and reduced risk environment that promotes learning and awareness with the outdoors.

A list of our various trips can be found on our website at <http://oa.sandiego.edu/schedule.html>

Guide Development Program (GDP):

The guide development program is designed to give students a chance to develop leadership and outdoor skills by training to lead outgoing trips from Outdoor Adventures. Emphasis is placed on developing outdoor-related 'hard' skills, leadership skills, extended-care medical skills, conflict resolution, public speaking, teambuilding skills, and risk management skills that will be valuable in many situations, not limited to the scope of Outdoor Recreation.

For more information on our guide program please go to <http://oa.sandiego.edu/guides.html>

REACH program:

This program is based upon the model of leadership development via experiential education. The R.E.A.C.H Program will serve everyone in the USD community to assist in group development, self-awareness, communication, problem solving, and creating activities/events that are fun! Activities can be catered to strengthen group cohesion, group processing, interpersonal relationships, or individual members' self-awareness and confidence level. The REACH program also has a partnership with Whispering Winds Camp and Conference Center, located in Julian. This site houses a Low and High Element Challenge Course. Organizations wanting to have an event hosted can be directed to our website at <http://oa.sandiego.edu/reach.html>

Experiential Leadership Program:

Building off the foundation of the REACH program, the experiential leadership program is designed to further enhance and foster the development of our organizations and student leaders. ELP facilitators will tailor an experience to meet each organization's individual needs and goals. Through careful assessment and planning that involves student leaders and advisors; we'll create a customized event that can range from a series of three 1-hour sessions to a half day program up to a full day or overnight retreat. In addition to the customized event, a follow-up session is included to help facilitate the transfer of learning from the experiential activity to the everyday operation of the organization. Activities may include the low and high element challenge course; rock climbing; surfing, raft building challenges and more.

Customized Trips Program:

The Customized trips program offers specially tailored outings for groups based on their available times, dates and group specific needs. This programs run identical to our Trips Program be each outing is created based on specific group goals/requests. Many of these trips are a combination of the Trip and REACH Programs, offering teambuilding and outings together for a rare experience. Applications for a Customized trip are located on our website at

<http://oa.sandiego.edu/customized.html>

Rental and Resource Program:

Students and staff who like to venture into the outdoors themselves also have the opportunity to rent camping equipment from us at reasonable rental prices. This alleviates the high cost of buying all your own equipment, especially for people who don't go out more than a few times a year. This is also a good way for people to try out camping, and hiking and such to see if it is something that they would enjoy doing on a more regular basis. The Outdoor Program also offers a RESOURCE area for students to learn and develop their own outings. Staff are on site to assist with this development. A list of all the equipment we rent can be found on our website at <http://oa.sandiego.edu/rentals.html>

Orientation Adventures Program:

The **Orientation Adventure** is a program offered three days prior to Orientation Week and is designed to introduce new students (freshman and transfer) to college life and to life at USD. It's a terrific opportunity to meet a small group of friends and to ease the transition from high school to college. This three day adventure features, camping, rock climbing, hiking, and kayaking. We also include a variety of low initiatives teambuilding activities; as well as high ropes elements i.e. climbing wall and zip line.

Outdoor Adventures- Resident Learning Community:

This is a collaborative effort with Residence Life to offer students the benefit of getting to know other students with similar interests. This community has a schedule of outings and outdoor leadership workshops to better help them engage with each other and the outdoor programs available to them. The students pay a fee for the first semesters trips then work together and with the O.A. office to create programming for their second semester.

ECO - LEEP Program

The Eco-Living program consists of the following projects:

- Take USD residents to farmers' markets in the San Diego community
- Work closely with Residential Life to educate students on eco-friendly domestic products available
- Organize city and beach clean-ups in the San Diego community
- Audit offices/programs to encourage sustainable efforts