

University of San Diego

Outdoor Adventures

Guide Training Program

*Want to expand your leadership skills?
Interested in helping freshmen have a great first experience at USD?
Do you enjoy the outdoors?
Do you like to have fun?*

Outdoor Adventures

Outdoor Adventures (OA) serves the USD community with opportunities to experience outdoor recreation and education programs that aim promote personal growth, leadership development, relationship building and environmental responsibility through organized outings and personal excursions.

Becoming an Adventure Guide

Guide training is a great way to meet FUN people while you complete the training to lead OA trips. We are looking for motivated students, graduate students and faculty or staff to become outings guides. We operate a Pre-Orientation Adventure program before the Fall semester, day trips around San Diego County and overnight trips to iconic locations around the Southwest. Some students enter the program with previous experience. Some would not consider themselves outdoorsy. Either is fine. OA will teach you the skills you need to be competent in the outdoors. Our priorities are to find people who are excited about working with others and learning and teaching new skills, and who bring a diversity of experiences and backgrounds to the program. We want our guides to represent the USD community as best as possible.

What does it cost to become a guide? Is Financial Aid Available?

It does cost money to go on amazing trips and while OA does strive to reduce the cost as much as possible, we realize this can impact a student's decision to participate. If you are receiving need-based financial aid from USD, please talk to Mark. We are very interested in supporting students who wish to become OA guides.

Outdoor clothing and equipment may be required for some OA trips. Typically, hiking boots and non-cotton clothing are required most frequently. Most trip equipment is provided by Outdoor Adventures.

1. **OA Guide Training Fee: \$50** – covers training materials, food, transportation, t-shirt
2. Training trip prices are significantly discounted and we will seek additional funding from Associated Students to offset cost
 - Extended Guide Training: \$300 - \$350
 - Weekend Guide Training Trips: \$40 - \$100
 - Leave No Trace Training: Free - \$40
3. We hire Wilderness Medical Training Center to run our WFR course. This is significantly less expensive than through other organizations.
 - Wilderness First Responder: approximately \$450 - \$500
4. Class B Commercial Driver's License: \$65 *reimbursed by OA when you are hired to drive. Earn \$8-\$10/hr as OA driver.

Benefits of Being a Guide

- Discount on OA trips!
- Opportunity to get paid as a Lead Guide
- Go to amazing places with amazing people
- Gain leadership skills and experience
- Develop outdoor skills
- Certifications for reduced rates
- Develop job & life skills (group management, decision making, judgment, etc.)
- Free & discounted equipment rentals (varies for different levels of program)
- Academic Credit

Guide Development Program

No previous experience is required. Our guide development program is designed to provide you with the training you need to lead safe, fun and educational outings. As you might imagine, however, developing these skills requires a significant commitment of time and energy on your part. Completing the in-house training and earning your certifications takes about one year. Each person develops the maturity and trip experience necessary in his or her own time.

The program includes training in:

- Group Leadership & Facilitation Skills
- Outdoor Living Skills (e.g. map & compass, minimum impact, cooking, etc.)
- Technical Skills (e.g. climbing, biking, backpacking, canoeing, etc.)
- Safety & Emergency Procedures
- Logistics/Trip Planning

We utilize various methods for training:

- In-house "classroom" sessions (mostly on campus during the evening)
- Training in the field
- Mentoring/shadowing experienced outing guides
- Joining trips as a participant
- Guide meetings (weekly & biweekly)
- Conferences and other opportunities (WROLC in February 2013)

To apply for Guide status within the program two of the following certifications must be met:

- Wilderness First Responder level first aid/CPR
- California Class B driver's license with passenger endorsement
- Leave No Trace Trainer certification

Levels of Achievement

Guide In Development: At this level, guides in development are expected to attend trainings and meetings designed to prepare them to become a guide. This is the building block to becoming a guide. Students may go through this program at different speeds based on their commitment level to becoming a guide. Missing critical trainings will result in waiting for the next time that training is offered to be able to complete the training program and progress to guide status. Guides in Development will also be encouraged when there is availability to go on adventure trips as an apprentice to learn from Lead Guides.

Guide: Guides in Development may progress to a Guide position, indicating their proficiency in the use of activity specific equipment, ability to instruct, lead and manage groups, and demonstrate a competence in technical skills. Two of the following three certifications need to be obtained before moving to guide level: Wilderness First Responder, Leave No Trace Trainer, California Class B driver's license. It is highly encouraged for prospective guides to take the spring academic course LEAD 162: Intro to Outdoor Leadership.

Lead Guide: Guides may progress to a Lead Guide position, indicating their proficiency in being able to instruct and train guides and guides in development in their required proficiencies. A Guide may become a lead in one or all of the following specifications: General Guiding; Rock Climbing; Water Sports; and Backcountry. This is the highest level that can be obtained by a student guide as is generally reached in the Junior or Senior academic year. Progression to Lead Guide is obtained after sufficient training, experience guiding, proof of proficiency, and successful interviewing with current Lead Guides and OA staff.

Philosophies

While the people and programs have changed over the years, Outdoor Adventures remains committed to four fundamental principles:

- Inclusively – This means more than simply being open and available to everyone. We strive to be a welcoming place for everyone. Whether you're signing up for an outing or just hanging out in the office, OA wants to be a place where you feel comfortable being yourself, meeting new people and trying new things.
- Challenge By Choice – Everyone is challenged by different things. For some, just tying into a climbing rope is a success, but for others, just signing up for a trip by themselves is something new. We strive to create an environment in which people feel supported and encouraged to try new things, but also feels safe saying "no" when they feel they need to.
- Minimum Impact – We have a special responsibility to minimize our environmental and social impact on our outings and in the office. Outdoor Adventures endorses and uses the Leave No Trace model of

environmental ethics in which we tailor our actions to the particular environments and situations we're in. We also strive to reduce our impact on other users by being aware of regulations and simply being courteous.

- Student Leadership – The personal development and enrichment of students is at the core of what we do in Outdoor Adventures and we infuse this philosophy into our outings, our guide development and our student staff training. Without student leadership, the program wouldn't exist, and we strive to provide academic and co-curricular leadership development opportunities.

Expectations for the Guide Development Program

Guides in Development must make a commitment to be dedicated to the programs success. This includes attending trainings/meetings, staying current with certification levels, and furthering the programs outreach efforts. For further details on the certifications needed for this level, please see the Guide Program application or checklist above for details. The Lead position is reserved for those students who have been recognized for their commitment to specified hard skills in an area, leadership within the program or commitment to the field in general. This may be achieved in a variety of ways which may include attending National/Local certification courses, attending specified trainings or working with the OA Program Manager or Director to achieve skill levels, attending National/Local Leadership workshops or conferences, or based on recommendation from the Director or Program Manager.

Adventure Activities

Guides should plan on spending as much time in the field as possible learning a variety of adventure activities. While we highly encourage becoming an 'expert' in your areas of greatest interest, we seek to develop generalists who have a diverse background and/or interest in leading a wide range of activities. Some of the adventure activities include:

- Rock Climbing
- Canoeing (flat-water)
- Backpacking
- Hiking
- Snorkeling
- Horseback Riding
- Ocean Kayaking
- Canyoneering
- Surfing
- Stand Up Paddleboarding
- Skiing / Snowboarding
- Mountain Biking

Maturity

Guides exercise a great deal of responsibility and must represent Outdoor Adventures and USD with a professional attitude and a level of maturity commensurate with the task of leading novices in the outdoors. This standard will be evaluated by the Director/Program Manager and others based on a variety of observable phenomena (i.e. decisions, actions, attitudes, comments, participant evaluations and supervisor evaluations).

Commitment

Due to the level of responsibility and scope of training, Guides must be committed to the program and their own development within the Guide Development Program. Attendance at guide meetings, assistance with social and promotional events and active participation in all aspects of the training is expected.

Getting Started

Complete a Guide Development Application and return it to University Center Room 136 and introduce yourself to Mark Ceder, Outdoor Adventures Program Manager. Get the upcoming training dates on your calendar and register for a training trip.

Contact Information:

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