



WOLF RIDGESM

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

Job Description

Job Title: Wilderness Trip Leader

Department: Program

Reports To: Adventure Programs Coordinator

FLSA Status: Exempt

Prepared By: Program Director

Updated Date: November 1, 2024

Approved: Rebecca Meyer

Approved Date: 12/15/2025

Summary

Wilderness Trip Leaders are responsible for all planning, pre-arrival packing, and leadership of our canoe, sea kayak, and hiking trips. Previous trip locations have included Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Superior Hiking Trail, Isle Royale, and Split Rock Lighthouse. Wolf Ridge Summer program runs from June 7-August 15, 2026.

1) General Duties of a Wilderness Trip Leader

- Serve as role model for campers and peers: display maturity, responsibility, flexibility, enthusiasm, and sound judgment
- Teach high quality Wolf Ridge classes to diverse audiences of all ages and backgrounds
- Teach/work 10-14 blocks per week
 - A block may include 3-hour long daytime classes, van driving, evening presentations, or 3 hour long evening activities
- Participate in staff training and orientation
- Be flexible to accommodate the needs of different programs
- Understand and adhere to all Wolf Ridge policies
- Other duties as assigned: may include, but are not limited to: curriculum kit organization, cleaning of facilities used by groups, setting up activities, etc

2) Essential Duties, Responsibilities and Skill

- Lead/co-lead camper and family wilderness trips that incorporate education, sound wilderness judgment, and adventure
- As the need arises and as directed by either Camp Programs Coordinator or Adventure Programs Coordinator, fulfill role of camp counselor for wilderness programs
 - Act as primary adult responsible for welfare of assigned campers, including sleeping in same room and/or tent with campers (applies to same gender identity), and ensuring proper supervision at all times
- Family BWCA: Act as the Wolf Ridge liaison for visiting family tripping groups
 - provide appropriate program and skills orientation
- Participate in wilderness specific training and orientation as deemed necessary by the Wolf Ridge Adventure Programs Coordinator
- Participate in planning appropriate program itineraries/schedules and menus
- Prepare/deliver wilderness trail classes
- Execute and teach all skills specific to wilderness program; i.e. kayaking, canoeing, fitting a backpack, etc
- Understand and adhere to all Wolf Ridge wilderness tripping policies and evacuation protocols
- Make decisions regarding participant safety by understanding environmental factors as well as group ability/social dynamics in a wilderness setting
- Help groups returning from trail, cleaning gear, putting equipment away, organizing the gear room.

3) Education and Experience

- Required
 - 21 years of age or older at time of employment
 - Current certifications in Wilderness First Responder, CPR, and Wilderness Water Safety by the time of employment
 - Wilderness Water Safety can be acquired during staff training
- Preferred – at least one year of trip leading experience in a backcountry setting
 - Demonstrate ability to exercise sound judgment and make informed decisions under dynamic circumstances
 - Working towards or completed a Bachelor's degree at an accredited college or university
 - Teaching experience – preferably in unstructured outdoor settings, such as wilderness areas

4) Compensation

- \$350/week paid biweekly
- Includes lodging
- Meals available when dining hall is open(Sunday lunch-Friday lunch with occasional weekend availability)