



Assistant Adventure Camp Instructor

Dates: June 12-August 30

Compensation: \$640/week (\$16/hour) + \$50/night stipend for trips

TO APPLY: Visit our website at www.wayaoutdoorschool.com/2024-openings

About the Organization:

We are a Native women-led nonprofit that offers programs that intertwine outdoor adventure, science education, and Indigenous knowledge. Camp Wa-Ya, our nomadic outdoor summer camp, combines a love of local South Sound landscapes and Native culture with the integration of Western and Indigenous science and learning.

Position Overview:

The Assistant Adventure Camp Instructor is responsible for assisting a Lead Adventure Camp Instructor in supervising and leading campers on 4-day, 3-night backpacking and kayaking trips. As part of pre-camp training, Instructors are given a week of intensive overnight sea kayaking and backpacking training. This position will assist with providing kayak/backpacking instruction, managing risk, teaching lessons, running activities, organizing games, and monitoring the health and safety of their group of 10 campers, ages 12-17. During three weeks of the summer, there are no Adventure Camps scheduled and the Assistant Adventure Camp Instructor will instead be assisting a Lead Day Camp Instructor in leading a group of Day Campers in and around the Olympia area.

This position helps to teach sea kayaking, backpacking, and camping skills; Leave No Trace principles; and outdoor survival skills such as shelter building, water purification, fire building, and navigation. This position is also responsible for assisting with pre-trip preparation and post-trip clean-up each week. Instructors are responsible for driving campers in 12- and 15-passenger vans with a kayak trailer.

Wa-Ya runs a 10-week summer camp program with Day Camp offerings for ages 6-13 and Adventure Camp trips for ages 12-17. All campers participate in lessons that are centered around a science-based curriculum, in combination with Indigenous practices and arts, outdoor adventure, mindfulness, and environmental stewardship, and that provide an environment that fosters a sense of wonder for Wa-Ya campers. All Wa-Ya staff engage in a culturally integrated environment, where Wa-Ya's values of respect, diversity, equity, and inclusion are practiced.

Schedule & Location:

This position is expected to work on-site from June 12-August 30, 2024. All programs run Monday-Friday. Each Adventure Camp trip includes a day in Olympia, followed by the overnight trip Tuesday-Friday. Day Camp shifts are approximately 8 hours, although additional time may be needed for curriculum prep, cleanup, or to provide routine child care.

Camp Wa-Ya is based at Tumwater Historical Park, off of I-5, just south of Olympia, WA. While our days start and end at THP, our campers & instructors travel by van to sites throughout the Olympia area each day.

Compensation:

Compensation for this position is a \$640 per week salary (\$16/hour equivalent). Additionally, Assistant Adventure Camp Instructors are provided a stipend of \$50/night for all overnight trips. Adventure Camp Instructors are provided with a 3-day intensive overnight kayak training and a 3-day backpack training and Wa-Ya will pay for your Wilderness First Responder certification.

Wa-Ya has local connections to help you find affordable housing during your summer contract.

Responsibilities:

- Support the Lead Instructor in providing outdoor adventure instruction in sea kayaking, backpacking, and camping.
- Support the Lead Instructor in planning Adventure Trips logistics including travel plans, meal planning and prep, equipment management, trail or route planning, safety protocols, etc.
- Support the Lead Instructor in developing curriculum and creating and teaching lessons that achieve Wa-Ya's learning objectives related to environmental education topics and adventure skills.
- Support the Lead Instructor in teaching sea kayaking skills (standard paddle strokes tracking and navigation, wet exits, and assisted reentry), backpacking, and camping skills (dressing and packing for the elements, how to pack a backpack, and camp safety), Leave No Trace principles, and outdoor survival skills such as shelter building, water purification, fire building, and navigation.
- Support the Lead Instructor in teaching South Puget Sound plant identification, natural history, conservation, marine biology, geology, river systems, survival skills, orienteering, and Indigenous culture.
- Support the Lead Instructor in providing instruction in activities including hiking, kayaking, rock climbing, survival, yoga, mindfulness, and art projects.
- Support the Lead Instructor with ensuring the routine integration of tribal culture lessons and activities, with the assistance of Wa-Ya's Tribal Fellow, as well as visiting Indigenous community leaders.
- Assist with pre-trip preparation and post-trip clean-up each week.
- Provide care and quality control of Wa-Ya field and adventure equipment and teaching supplies, including maintaining a well-organized and clean equipment storage room.
- Provide mentoring and direction to Wa-Ya summer interns and actively engage them in daily camp activities, logistics, and lesson delivery.
- If needed, drive the Wa-Ya vans (12- and 15-passenger) to teaching sites, including periodically towing Wa-Ya's sea kayak trailer.
- Engage with parents, guest speakers, board members, and other camp staff.
- Follow camp policies and procedures and ensure the safety and well-being of all participants at camp.

Qualifications:

Applicants who do not meet all the qualifications listed below but present other relevant qualifications or experience will be considered. If you are passionate about this work, please apply!

- A passion for inspiring and educating youth and connecting them to their authentic selves, their environment, science, and Native perspectives.
- Experience working with youth.
- Confidence in providing assistance leading sea kayaking and backpacking overnight trips including competency in supporting overnight camping conditions for youth.
- Knowledge, skills, and abilities to utilize critical thinking, problem-solving, prioritizing, conflict management, and multitasking skills.
- Demonstrated ability to develop and deliver environmental science and/or outdoor curriculum to kids.
- Familiarity and experience in at least two of the following: environmental education, outdoor adventure activities, ecological science/research, native cultures.
- Familiarity with local flora and fauna; and STEAM activities.
- Experience participating in or teaching adventure-related activities including, but not limited to, kayaking, rock climbing, hiking, and outdoor survival.
- Curiosity, patience, and reliability.
- Available to work 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday plus overnight Tuesday-Thursday.
- Ability to lift a minimum of 50 lbs.
- Comfortable working outdoors all day in all summer weather conditions.
- Valid driver's license, clean driving record, and ability to pass a background check.
- First Aid/CPR certified, Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder preferred.