



Lead Adventure Camp Instructor

Dates: June 12-August 30

Compensation: \$720/week (\$18/hour) + \$100/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 Lead Adventure Camp Instructor is responsible, with the support of an Assistant Adventure Camp Instructor, for 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. Instructors provide kayak/backpacking instruction, manage risk, teach lessons, run activities, organize games, and monitor 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 Adventure Camp Instructors will instead be leading a group of Day Campers in and around the Olympia area.

This position will 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 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 \$720 per week salary (\$18/hour equivalent). Additionally, Lead Adventure Camp Instructors are provided a stipend of \$100/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:

- Provide outdoor adventure instruction in sea kayaking, backpacking, and camping.
- Assist in planning Adventure Trips logistics including travel plans, meal planning and prep, equipment management, trail or route planning, safety protocols, etc.
- Develop curriculum and create and teach lessons that achieve Wa-Ya's learning objectives related to environmental education topics and adventure skills.
- Teach 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.
- Teach South Puget Sound plant identification, natural history, conservation, marine biology, geology, river systems, survival skills, orienteering, and Indigenous culture.
- Provide instruction in activities including hiking, kayaking, rock climbing, survival, yoga, mindfulness, and art projects.
- Ensure 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.
- Manage 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 Assistant Instructors and summer interns and actively engage them in daily camp activities, logistics, and lesson delivery.
- 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.
- Experience supervising staff or peers.

- Experience leading sea kayaking and/or 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.