

Out Camping Equipment Specialist

Job Description

Reports To: Director of Camp Programs and Logistics Coordinator



American Youth Foundation Mission

We dare people to discover and celebrate the very best in themselves and others; inspire them to explore diverse perspectives and complex challenges; and embolden them to live courageously, engaging their full capacity.

Job Location: Position is located at Merrowvista in Center Tuftonboro, New Hampshire. The Merrowvista site necessitates the ability to move through rugged terrain. Employees are required to live onsite for the duration of their employment including staff training and the two camp sessions.

Job Type: Seasonal, Full Time. Employment begins June 9 and ends on August 11.

Job Summary:

Merrowvista is an overnight, residential summer camp for youth ages 8-17. The Out Camping Equipment (OCE) Specialist will be responsible for the day-to-day management of a large inventory of outdoor adventure gear used by groups of campers as they participate in multi-day backpacking, canoe and wilderness trips. These trips take place in primitive, backcountry environments throughout New Hampshire and Maine and are led by leaders. The OCE Specialist provides trip support on-site at Merrowvista alongside the Out Camping Food (OCF) Specialist and Logistics Coordinator. Daily responsibilities include: keeping an inventory of all equipment, maintaining gear for safety, function and efficiency, assisting camper groups with gear pack out and returns and instructing campers on proper equipment use. This role will also assist with camp programming as needed.

Position Responsibilities:

- Maintain an organized, clean and functional equipment space.
- Inventory all gear, order new equipment, and repair items as needed.
- Ensure all camper groups are given the proper gear needed for a safety and successful backcountry trip.
- Manage gear loans for campers and staff who need to borrow personal gear items.
- Lead camper groups in the pack out and return process, providing guidance on best practices.
- Instruct campers and staff on proper use of equipment and basic field repair of gear.
- Clean, repair and store all equipment appropriately.
- Assist with gear and food resupplies for longer trips, driving to meet groups in the backcountry.
- Participate in all camp programming: early morning and evening activities, meals, daily reflections.
- Assist with camp programming and provide staff coverage when needed.
- Ensure the safety of campers at all times by following and implementing all safety standards.
- Build relationships with campers to foster friendly, nurturing and age-appropriate group dynamics.
- Communicate daily with supervisor, attend staff meetings and follow guidance and instruction from coordinators and directors.
- This is not meant to be a complete list of all responsibilities. Other duties may be assigned.

Skills and Qualifications:

Required:

- Minimum Age: 18 years old by June 9, 2024.
- Experience in outdoor adventure education or wilderness trip leading.

- Working knowledge of adventure gear: backpacks, stoves, water filtration, boots, tents, tarps, clothing.
- Support the organization's mission and vision with integrity, dependability, and accountability.
- Interact effectively with individuals and groups respecting social and cultural diversity. Establish and maintain appropriate professional relationships and interpersonal skills that contribute to a positive community.
- Demonstrate passion for serving youth, encouraging campers to explore through play and creating a space where youth feel included and a sense of belonging.
- Fully participate in and be present at all camp community activities, including staff training activities.
- Maintain effective mental, emotional, and social interactions in our youth-centered residential summer camp program.
- Ability to handle stressful situations appropriately, maintaining mental, emotional, and social resiliency needed for the job in a fast-paced, interactive environment.
- Use effective and appropriate self-care practices for maintaining overall wellness.
- Follow all guidelines and policies as described in the AYF (American Youth Foundation) staff manual.

Preferred:

- Possess outdoor skills: camping, hiking, canoeing, backpacking.
- Leadership experience: including student, sports, club, team and community leadership.
- Professional or academic experience in the field of outdoor or experiential education.
- A personality and character that exudes leadership, flexibility, trustworthiness, creativity, energy, inspiration and positivity.

Work Environment:

- Live onsite in communal housing for the duration of employment including weekends and evenings and be available 24 hours/day in case of emergencies (except days off).
- All meals are provided. Dietary accommodations will be made when needed.

Compensation:

- Weekly pay: \$600
- Employees will receive one day off for every six days worked.

Company Culture:

The AYF believes that how we act and interact reflects who we are as a community. In practice, at the AYF we value investing in youth, stewarding the environment, encouraging participants and staff to explore and develop their values and beliefs, belonging in community, and growing together.

Recognizing the full value of all, the American Youth Foundation affords equal opportunity for employment and program participation to all individuals on the basis of merit and/or eligibility without regard to race, color, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, religion, national origin, citizenship, disability, age, military status, or any other basis prohibited by law.

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by the individual(s) assigned to this position. They are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all duties, responsibilities, and skills required for this position. This document does not create an employment contract, implied or otherwise, other than an "at will" relationship.

Updated: 11/19/2023