Poplar Ridge Challenge Course, Group Facilitator

Job Description

Program Description:

The Poplar Ridge Challenge Course program is an experiential learning and training program operated through the department of Intramural-Recreational Sports and Outdoor Recreation. As of 1997, more than 20,000 participants have experienced our programs from youth groups to University organizations and corporate work teams. Our typical programs revolve around team building and leadership development concepts and many programs include one or more of our high ropes activities.

Job Description:

Facilitators for Poplar Ridge take on many roles: trainer, leader, mediator, coach, role model, instructor, and counselor. Most programs utilize the challenge course facility located on grounds at University of Virginia in a wooded area near Observatory Hill. A typical program would involve leading a team of 8-16 participants through a series of experiential initiatives and facilitating group discussions around what was learned. Many of our programs incorporate one or more of our high elements using ropes, harnesses, and group belay systems. High course training is provided, though those with prior challenge course or rock climbing experience may pick it up more quickly. New facilitators are paired with our experienced facilitators for their first few programs.

Qualifications:

Ideal candidates would be mature undergraduate, graduate, or community members with experience teaching, facilitating, or leading groups. Applicants should have a strong interest in team building, outdoor instruction, and/or organizational dynamics. Experience with the above topics is preferred. Successful candidates will have a demonstrated ability and comfort in front of groups, creative energy, and strong personal integrity. Preference will be given to individuals who can demonstrate a commitment to the program. Training, including CPR and First Aid, is provided.

General Wage Scale:

Pay begins at $9.00/ hour with the possibility of up to $11-12/ hour for lead facilitators. Additionally, lead facilitators may make up to $16/ hour when working corporate or professional staff programs.

Other Benefits:

- Ability to check out outdoor rental equipment for personal use
- After working one semester, community staff are eligible for a pass to all University recreation facilities through the Intramural-Recreational Sports Department.

Any additional questions about the Poplar Ridge Facilitator positions can be directed toward Mike Brown, Challenge Course Manager, at mj6bz@virginia.edu and John McCall, Director for Outdoor Recreation and Poplar Ridge, at jwm3g@virginia.edu.

To apply, follow the application instructions on our departmental website. http://recsports.virginia.edu/