

Graduate Assistantship:

Outdoor Leadership and Education

Department: UC San Diego Recreation – Outback Adventures

Supervisor: Director of Outdoor Recreation,

Department Description

Outback Adventures is a program of UC San Diego Recreation and is part of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. The mission of Outback Adventures is to provide opportunities for challenge, leadership and environmental responsibility through adventure experiences. Outback offers non-credit outdoor adventure programs for the UC San Diego and greater San Diego community. Outback Adventures has 7 program areas.

1. *Trips and Classes:* ~20 adventure trips ranging from 8 day spring break backpacking trips to 4 hour night hikes to Wilderness First Responder courses. The trips are led primarily by UC San Diego students.
2. *Outdoor Leadership Certificate:* A yearlong certificate program to train UCSD students to become proficient outdoor leaders. The certificate includes field and classroom training in leadership theory, interpersonal skills, technical skills and risk management training.
3. *Wilderness Orientation:* Outdoor adventure orientation for incoming UCSD students. Trips are led by UCSD students and happen just before the start of the Fall quarter.
4. *UC San Diego Challenge Course:* We offer an adventure based teambuilding program on our new high ropes and ground based challenge course. The program is open to UCSD students, staff and faculty and the greater San Diego community.
5. *Outback Climbing Center:* We have an indoor climbing gym available for membership, drop in climbing and private rentals.
6. *Outback Rental Shop:* Full service outdoor, water and snow sports rental and service.
7. *Outback Surf Shop:* The face of our program and a full surf shop found in the UCSD Student Center.

Educational Objectives for the Graduate Assistant

Collaborating with Outback Adventures professional and student staff, the Graduate Assistant will aid in coordinating student development programming that enhances the Outback Adventures mission. The

primary focus of the graduate assistant will be assisting in the development of a comprehensive assessment plan to gauge effectiveness of OA program on student learning, especially as it ties into the UCSD Student Affairs Learning Outcomes and strategic plan. The Graduate Assistant will be evaluated twice during the assistantship for the purpose of providing feedback on observed growth and learning. The Graduate Assistant will have the opportunity to develop the following leadership skills: interpersonal skills, communication skills, public speaking skills, organizational skills, event planning skills and delegation skills, etc.

Duties and responsibilities

- Assist in the development, delivery and analysis of a comprehensive assessment plan for the program.
- Assist with the development and implementation of Wilderness Orientation for incoming students.
- Based on abilities, co-lead outdoor leadership certificate trainings and co-lead outdoor adventure trips. Some training will be provided.
- Complete training as a challenge course facilitator and facilitate team building programs for student, community and corporate groups.
- Assist in the marketing and administration of the trips and teambuilding programs.
- Other duties as assigned.

Knowledge and skills needed for the assistantship

- Knowledge and understanding of experiential and adventure education philosophy and programs.
- Understanding of a diverse student population including the needs and challenges students face everyday.
- Ability to understand program outcomes and design assessment tools to assess student learning.
- Strong organizational and programming skills with attention to detail.
- Strong written, oral and interpersonal communication skills.
- Ability to work in a team environment and independently.
- A strong desire to experience and learn about outdoor and student leadership development in a University setting.

Benefits of the Assistantship

- Gain a better understanding of Student Affairs on a large University campus.
- Gain experience developing, delivering and analyzing assessment of student learning.
- Gain experience facilitating teambuilding and outdoor adventure program.
- Gain leadership and administration skills that are valuable for future employers.
- Gain experience in a student leadership development program.

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