



Graduate Teaching Assistant, Outdoor Programs

Job Description

The Utah State University Outdoor Programs (OP) Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) reports to the OP Assistant Director and assists in the operation and supervision of five program areas which include: adventure-based trips, special programs, certification courses/educational clinics, equipment rentals, and climbing wall. The GTA is responsible for implementing policies and procedures that contribute to the supervision, operation, and advancement of these program areas. The GTA must teach an academic class to qualify.

Trips Program, Certification Courses/Educational Clinics, Special Programs:

- Management and supervision of OP trips and special programs
- Supervisory responsibilities over 20+ student trip leaders
- Oversee the implementation of trip policies, procedures and operational duties including trip planning, food purchasing, essential paperwork, vehicle use, incident reporting, and equipment use
- Develop and implement training lesson plans with focus on trip program policies, procedures, risk management, and leadership skills
- Provide classroom and field-based training in activity specific outdoor skills including but not limited to: whitewater rafting/kayaking, backpacking, rock climbing, backcountry skiing/boarding, canyoneering, canoeing and stand up paddle boarding
- Develop and implement policies and activities that foster diversity and inclusion, trip leader mentorship, camaraderie and enhance the OP work culture
- Maintain and enhance the trip program database. Create statistical reports to measure and evaluate program performance
- Assist OP Assistant Director with instruction of wilderness medicine (PE 1543, PE 1544), swiftwater rescue (PE 1507) and avalanche education (PE 1547, PE 1549, PE 1548) academic certification courses.
- Develop and implement outdoor skills-based educational clinics and workshops for the campus community

Rental Shop, Climbing Wall and Yurt Responsibilities:

- Assist OP Coordinator/Assistant Director with management and supervision of OP rental shop, climbing wall and special events
- Assist OP Coordinator/Assistant Director with recruiting, interviewing, hiring, training, scheduling, mentoring, and evaluation of climbing wall and rental shop staff
- Assist OP Assistant Director with rental gear management, repair, and training of new employees
- Assist OP Coordinator with academic climbing classes
- Plan and implement climbing wall programs, clinics, and special events
- Teach PE 1527 Basic Rock Climbing or Advise the USU Climbing Team
- Plan, develop, and host outdoor related clinics/workshops for the USU community
- Assist OP Coordinator in management and supervision of the climbing wall and the climbing wall staff
- Assist OP Associate Director with the Blind Hollow winter yurt facility

Projects, Special Events, and Professional Development:

- The GA is encouraged to develop and pursue professional interests and certifications that will benefit the OP and potential future employment
- Assist with the development, recruitment and execution of outdoor films, speakers, presentations and other events that enhance campus life and USU students' academic experience
- Work cooperatively with other Campus Recreation programs and staff members assisting with facility operations and special events as needed

- Attend staff meetings and serve on university committees when requested
- Fulfill additional Campus Recreation departmental duties as assigned

Required Qualifications:

- Enrollment in Utah State University Graduate Studies Program
- Must have a 3.0 GPA in the last 60 credit hours and at least be in the 40th percentile on the GRE or MAT
- Bachelor's Degree in outdoor recreation, education, or related field
- Wilderness First Responder or higher medical certification
- 1+ years' experience in a structured outdoor program/commercial outfitter operation

Preferred Work Experiences and Requirements:

- Leave No Trace Trainer/ Master Educator
- AMGA Single Pitch Instructor or comparable certification/advanced climbing experience
- Swiftwater Rescue
- Level I Avalanche or higher with advanced skiing/snowboarding ability
- Experience with ski/snowboard, mountain bike, and/or inflatable watercraft repair and maintenance

Graduate Teaching Assistantship: \$13,000 assistantship, plus full tuition and subsidized insurance is available. Student fees and any tuition differential are to be paid by the GTA. Up to an additional \$1,000 for professional development opportunities. This position is a 9- month appointment with hourly summer work opportunities available. Employment dates: 08/01/24 – 05/1/25 and 08/1/25 – 05/1/26. Year two is contingent upon satisfactory job performance.

Application/ Selection Process: Applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, three professional references, and experience vita/trip log (personal, academic and/or commercial trip leading) to Greg Davis- Outdoor Programs Assistant Director for USU Campus Recreation greg.j.davis@usu.edu (435) 797-0066

Common Graduate Programs for Campus Recreation GTA's:

Department of Kinesiology and Health Science

- Master of Education in Sport and Physical Education
- Master of Health Promotion
- Master of Fitness Promotion
- Master of Science in Health & Human Movement with specializations in: Exercise Science, Health Education, and Sports Medicine.
- Master of Sport Management

Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food Sciences Department

- Dietetics Administration

Environment and Society Department

- Recreation Resource Management

John M. Huntsman School of Business

- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Human Resources

UtahStateUniversity
CAMPUS RECREATION