

Students In Wilderness Initiative (SIWI) Coordinator



Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions seeks two enthusiastic outdoor educators for these year-round, full time positions. Our Students in Wilderness Initiative (SIWI) program is a collaborative program developed with The Wilderness Society (TWS) and a variety of schools across New Mexico and is part of TWS's larger Youth In Wilderness program. Our program focuses on public lands, issues around wilderness, the history of public lands in the US, and environmental education. The curriculum is delivered through a series of classroom sessions and field-based expeditions; the classroom sessions explore topics with students and connect them with stakeholders in those topics; field expeditions are designed to experience wilderness areas and build comfort in these spaces. This program works with middle school students and is designed to address the access gap that many historically disadvantaged communities experience in predominantly white outdoor spaces. In part, we hope to inspire and empower students to become advocates for wilderness issues and to develop a life-long relationship with public lands. A piece of this position is developing strong connections with the communities they are working with (meaning students, families, teachers, administrators, and other community leaders) to build trust and understanding of the SIWI program. The person in this position works with students and teachers both in school and on field expeditions from August - May and works with youth in CGE's open enrollment multi-week traveling programs during the summer.

Job Objective: Support and coordinate SIWI programs; serve as lead educator for 3-5 SIWI schools per year. Classroom, day trips and overnight trips. Serve as a lead field staff for SIWI and other programs.

Responsibilities:

Students in Wilderness Initiative (60%):

- Prepare, schedule, facilitate, and support classroom-based learning experiences about land designation and Wilderness with middle school students throughout New Mexico; Check in with classroom teachers on +/- deltas throughout the year for classroom sessions and field-based expeditions; Schedule and communicate with stakeholders for classrooms sessions; Guide students in a project-based learning component
- Facilitate and attend planning meetings via phone and in person with teachers and administrators; represent CGE in a professional manner; facilitate and attend after-school parent meetings with families of SIWI students; answer questions about risk, backpacking, relevance of curriculum, etc. Build relationships with students, parents, teachers, administrators, and other community leaders to support the SIWI program
- Plan effective itineraries to get students into wilderness areas in compliance with organizational processes and serve as a team lead to ensure logistics for field expeditions are executed; Spend up to 5 nights at a time camping in the field; total overnight field work for SIWI will be between 50 and 65 nights per year.
- Assist with SIWI program administration including collaborative data collection, management, and analysis at various levels, including information from student pre- and post-surveys; virtual communication with The Wilderness Society once every 1-3 weeks, in collaboration with other SIWI staff and program director; publicity, outreach, marketing, storytelling and blog writing; Assist in writing reports to foundations and other funding agencies; Assist with curriculum development of SIWI

Summer Expeditions (20%):

- Lead and support outdoor education expeditions across the American Southwest, including in frontcountry and backcountry settings, ranging from single day programs to multi-week programs; Depending on position, spend up to 21 nights at a time camping in the field; total overnight field work for summer expeditions will be 25 days or less.
- Specific role in summer programs will be determined based on employee's skills and interests and the staffing needs of the organization

- Live at our summer Basecamp in Thoreau, NM from June 1st - Aug 15th

Program Support (20%):

- Communicate effectively with a variety of audiences including teachers, parents, land managers, funders, board members, etc.
- Assist with facilitation of other CGE programs as a support staff person

Requirements

- Applicants must be at least 21 years of age by the position start date and possess a valid driver's license. Must have a clean driving history and be able to meet the criteria for CGE vehicle insurance.
- Must be able to live at Base Camp or travel with a group during the summer. Work hours are frequently outside of traditional office hours. Overnight camping is required for 50-65 nights/year.
- Strong organizational skills; Ability to learn how to prioritize and manage multiple tasks simultaneously and independently.
- Ability to learn software (Google Drive, Adobe products, and Microsoft Office) quickly
- Ability to learn how to communicate effectively and professionally with a wide range of audiences (TWS representatives, fellow staff, teachers, students, parents, etc.) via a wide range of tools
- Passion for and experience with spending time outdoors

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience as an outdoor educator, managing risk, supervising field staff, and independently running trips throughout a season; Experience leading backpacking; WFR or ability to acquire within 90 days of hire; WEMT.
- Education, classroom teaching, or curriculum development training or experience; Experience using Zoom, Google Hangouts, etc. for professional purposes and/or virtual teaching
- Experience with federal, state, tribal, and private land management
- Connection, understanding of, and relationship with New Mexico lands and wilderness areas
- Spanish, Diné, Zuni, Tiwa, Keres, Towa, Hopi, or Tewa language fluency.

Reports To: Program Director of Contract Courses

Leadership or Supervisory Duties: This person will serve as a part of the leadership team at Cottonwood Gulch and will be responsible for overseeing seasonal staff. This will include supporting other leaders throughout the season and supervising field staff teams.

Criminal Background Check: Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions requires criminal background checks from all employees.

Work Location: Albuquerque, NM (August to June); Thoreau, NM (June to August).

Target Starting Date: July 27th, 2020

Closing Date For Applications: Position Open Until Filled; Applications submitted prior to July 15th will be given priority consideration.

Schedule and Workload Responsibilities: Year round, 1.0 FTE. This position is anticipated to be 40% field education, 40% classroom education, and 20% office/support work, with monthly and seasonal variation. Work hours vary and do not fit into traditional work hours. Overnight work is required for this position, for between 50 and 90 days per year.

Physical Requirements: Ability to hike up to 8 miles a day on uneven surfaces and carry a pack up to 50 pounds. Sleep in a tent or open-air cabin accessed by stairs. Work at a desk. Talk on the phone. Use a computer.

Compensation: This is a year-round position, based on funding provided. Salary range between \$1800-2250/month. 100% Health Care Premiums paid. Housing in CGE's Albuquerque Bunkhouse optional from August-June; Housing at Thoreau Base Camp provided June-Aug. Professional development opportunities possible for long-term staff (WFR, SPI, LNT, BICP, etc). Various Pro-Deals available to all staff. Retirement match up to 5% available after six months.

Equal Employment Opportunity: Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, genetic information, and national or ethnic origin. The organization's nondiscrimination policy applies to all phases of its employment process, its admission and financial aid programs, and to all other aspects of its educational programs and activities.

DEI Statement:

Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions believes in the learning, growth and healing that can take place in the outdoors. We also recognize that access to programs like ours—along with access to any green space, clean air and water, and healthy food—continues to be a privilege rather than a right. CGE recognizes that in outdoor spaces, the voices and work of people of color, people from working class backgrounds, indigenous people, women, and LGBTQ+ folx have been often overlooked and marginalized. We also recognize that these communities must be centered in the work we do as an organization moving forward. Therefore, we strongly encourage applications from people with these identities and of those who are members of other historically marginalized communities.

How to Apply: Go to this [link](#), complete online application and indicate Field Coordinator. Please mention your interest in the SIWI position specifically.