



Job Title: River Specialist

Department: Program
Reports To: Chief Whitewater Instructor
FLSA Status: Seasonal Exempt
Location: Town Office
Supervision: None

Summary:

The River Specialist assists a Lead River Specialist in the risk management and delivery of the North Carolina Outward Bound School whitewater programs to assure our mission. Working as a river specialist at NCOBS can be fun, challenging, and rewarding. It is a job that will keep you thinking, problem solving, physically active, constantly learning and growing. As river staff we define ourselves as educators working through the median of whitewater. We design our river blocks to meet the outcomes of our guiding principles and look for opportunities out on and off the water to do this. We are part of a larger team of people, which includes field instructors, course directors, support staff, and program directors, helping to work toward the common goal of meeting the mission and principles and living them out with the students and in our lives. The river specialist position is a training ground to be a Lead River Specialist position.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Ensure students and staffs are properly managing risks associated with paddling whitewater.
- Deliver quality whitewater instruction to NCOBS' staff and students.
- Ensure paddling programs adhere to National and NCOBS risk management policies, risk management procedures, local operating procedures, and directives from CWI.
- Assist Lead River Staff in logistical support of river programs.

Working Conditions:

- Must be able to lift 75 pounds and participate in vigorous to moderate physical activity including but not limited to paddling and camping in the field.
- Irregular work hours as necessary.

Qualifications:

- Interest in making a positive difference in the lives of people, both students and co-workers.
- Passion for teaching whitewater paddling.
- Can work well on a team with other professional outdoor educators and at the same time be able to operate self reliantly when appropriate
- Current WFR and CPR certifications
- American Canoe Association OCII Whitewater Instructor Certification Level 4.
- American Canoe Association Swiftwater Rescue Certification or personal skills and experience equal to certification as determined by the CWI.
- Ability to make sound judgment calls on and off the water with their groups and co-workers.
- Strong awareness of risk management and a mature respect of the dynamic nature of water based programs.
- Experience leading groups engaged in whitewater paddling.
- Demonstrate following for NCOBS CWI, or person designated by CWI:
 - A personal skill base that allows the individual to comfortably facilitate the students' experience and perform boat based rescues from a tandem and solo open canoe in up to class III whitewater.
 - Ability to effectively present the components and skills necessary to facilitate and manage the risks of a standard NCOBS' three to five day tandem canoe progression.
 - Understanding of river hydrology and river hazards: eddies, strainers, holes (hydraulics), undercuts, etc. and how to manage them.
 - Ability to swim effectively in class III whitewater.
 - Cleared background screening and ability to pass NCOBS trailer certified driver.



In addition to the above, Lead River Specialists will meet the following qualifications and carry out additional duties.

Additional Lead River Specialist Qualifications:

- Cleared background screening and ability to pass NCOBS trailer certified driver.
- American Canoe Association OCI Whitewater Instructor Certification or personal skills and experience equal to certification as determined by the CWI.
- Possess a depth of river experience that reaches beyond the scope of the NCOBS river program
- Possess a working knowledge of river specific details. (Leads will be determined by river)
 - River features (i.e. routes through rapids, cut off levels, scouting trails, lunch spots, etc.)
 - Logistics (i.e. put-ins, take-outs, river campsites, evacuation routes, and area roads).
 - Local resources (i.e. water sources, medical facilities, local contacts).
- Familiarity with logistics of running NCOBS river progression and acceptance of the ultimate responsibility for:
 - Trucks and trailers
 - Petty cash system
 - Paperwork and permits
 - Issue and deissue of river gear.

Additional Essential Duties and Responsibilities of Lead River Specialist:

- Prepare gear, vehicles, and consumables for each river program.
- Work with Chief Whitewater Instructor (CWI) and Course Directors (CDs) to ensure gear and river staff meet crews punctually.
- Ensure students and staff properly manage the risks associated with paddling whitewater.
- Deliver quality whitewater instruction to NCOBS' staff and students.
- Ensure paddling programs adhere to National and NCOBS risk management policies, risk management procedures, local operating procedures, and directives from CWI.
- Act as mentor/trainer for NCOBS Field Staff and River Staff.
- Ensure NCOBS is adhering to USFS, National Park, or private landowners' regulations/permits while engaged in river programs.
- Represent NCOBS when dealing with local land managers and landowners while engaged in river programs.
- Deissue, clean, dry, and repair river gear after each river program.
- Manage petty cash account allotted to the canoe fleet.
- Ensure river vehicles and trailers receive periodic maintenance and cleaning. Inform CWI of any vehicle accidents or repair needs.
- Work closely with CWI to continue raising the quality of NCOBS river programs.

Compensation and Benefits:

- Competitive rate depending on experience
- Room and board during summer season

Application Instructions:

Qualified applicants should send a letter of interest and to the Staffing Department, 2582 Riceville Road, Asheville, NC 28805 or staffing@ncobs.org.

North Carolina Outward Bound strives to build a diverse and supportive community. We welcome and respect diversity of background, experience, identity, and opinion in our staff. We embrace people of any race, color, sex, age, socioeconomic class, sexual orientation, national origin, gender identity, ethnicity, religion and family make up.