



ADVENTURE LEADERSHIP PRACTICUM

The following provides a detailed description of the Adventure Leadership Practicum. Prior to applying, please review our website for background information on HeLa Ventures' goals, programs, and staffing structure (helaventures.com). We also suggest you review the document titled [What is Guiding?](#) If you have any questions or require further information, please email HeLa Ventures at info@helaventures.com.

Introduction

The Adventure Leadership Practicum (ALP) is a 3.5-month program, designed for anyone interested in expanding their skill, knowledge, and experience in a professional, outdoor environment.

Developed under the premise that a professional background in the outdoor field requires a combination of theoretical knowledge, practical skills, certifications, and experience, the ALP program offers a unique opportunity for those considering a career in outdoor recreation, education, or tourism. The program includes formal training in various outdoor pursuits, many nationally recognized certifications, and mentored work-experience in a professional guiding field, all with a strong focus on outdoor leadership development. Upon completion of the course, participants of the ALP program will have gained a well-rounded and highly marketable professional outdoor background, allowing them the possibility of a career in the outdoor adventure field.

Goal:

The goal of the ALP program is to provide a quality educational experience for students interested in future careers in adventure education, recreation and tourism.

Specific Objectives:

Through a mix of formal training, certifications and work experience, the ALP program will provide participants with the opportunity to:

1. obtain technical and rescue skills, safety knowledge, and certifications in adventure education or outdoor pursuits including lake and river (whitewater) canoeing, rafting, hiking, trail biking, outdoor climbing, wilderness/plant interpretation, wilderness living skills,

- wilderness first aid, swiftwater rescue and outdoor emergency response;
2. gain working knowledge and practical experience in planning, implementing, and evaluating environmental education, adventure education, and outdoor pursuits programs;
 3. assist in the administrative and operational duties required in the delivery of adventure education programs to individuals and groups of varying ages;
 4. develop/enhance leadership skills in a variety of settings;
 5. become acquainted with using experiential education to meet components of junior and senior high school curriculum;
 6. work cooperatively as a team member in the delivery of quality environmental and adventure education programs;
 7. collaborate with a team to deliver all aspects of facility and non-facility based programming.

Program Basics

Location:

The majority of the ALP program will occur at the HeLa Ventures facility west of Rocky Mountain House. This camp will act as our home-base, where the participants will live and learn in a communal setting. Programs will occur both at the facility and in the surrounding area. For off-site programs, transportation will be provided.

Participants may bring their own vehicles and are free to come and go as they please on days off or during the evenings once programming and operations are completed.

Dates:

April 28 - August 18th, 2024 (with the possibility of paid work from August 18th into the fall, dependent on bookings).

Living Expenses:

Participants will be provided with accommodation and food throughout the program. Staff (including ALP participants) housing varies, but all accommodations have beds and mattresses, are well-kept and comfortable. Staff will have their own bedroom; bathrooms and common areas are shared.

Certifications Awarded:

Upon successful completion of the ALP program, participants have the opportunity to achieve seven nationally recognized industry standard certifications (listed below), as well as formal training and skills certificates in a variety of outdoor pursuits.

Overview

The ALP program has 2 main components: training and work experience. Both components will be completed simultaneously throughout the season, with a larger emphasis on formal training during the spring season and work experience during the summer. Training and work experience will be ongoing, with the possibility for employment in the final part of the season, upon completion of the ALP program.

Training component:

The initial focus of the program will be the development of fundamental skills, knowledge and certifications that will provide the foundation for the work experience component. ALP trainees will participate in a combination of formal training and mentorships as they work with senior staff in program delivery to clients. Participants will begin to acquire leadership skills during this part of the program.

Work experience component:

As training progresses, participants will apply their knowledge and skills in assisting with the delivery of client programs - mainly school and private groups. Once all training has been completed, ALP trainees will be able to lead a variety of high-quality outdoor programs with the support of other staff. Participants will rotate between programs (summer school groups, extended out-trips, private/public groups) and facility operations.

Certification and Skills Courses

The ALP program provides the opportunity to achieve many nationally recognized certifications and formal training in a wide range of outdoor pursuits. All courses will occur at, or close to HeLa, and will be provided by certified instructors and instructor trainers. Most training will be delivered in a hands-on, practical format, however, there will be some theoretical classroom sessions. Below is a list of both skills and certification courses provided through the program.

Skills courses:

These programs are designed to increase skill and knowledge in the areas outlined below for future outdoor leadership and employment. A certificate outlining the skills achieved in each of these areas will be awarded.

- Top Rope Climb Set-up and Management
- Bike Leader
- Raft Leader
- Hike Leader

- Wilderness Living Skills Leader
- Orienteering Skills and Program Delivery

Certificate courses:

The certificate programs are Skills Courses from nationally recognized organizations, and include:

- Paddle Canada Lake Skills Tandem
- Paddle Canada Lake Intermediate Skills Tandem
- Paddle Canada Moving Water Skills Tandem
- Paddle Canada Moving Water Intermediate Skills Tandem
- Paddle Canada Camping Basic Skills
- Paddle Canada Wilderness Camping Skills

Certification courses:

The certification courses are nationally recognized certifications. These certifications include:

- Advanced Wilderness First Aid (WAFA 40 hr)
- Wilderness First Responder Bridge (WFR 40 hrs)
- Swiftwater Rescue Technician I
- Paddle Canada Waterfront Instructor
- Paddle Canada Lake Instructor Tandem
- Paddle Canada Moving Water Instructor Tandem
- Paddle Canada Camping Basics Instructor

For a detailed breakdown of each certificate and certification course, click [here](#).

Please note that there is no guarantee that participants will achieve the certifications/certificates. Opportunity to participate in the courses will be provided, but the participant must meet standards outlined by the certifying body to obtain each certification/certificate.

Finances

The following outlines the funding you will need to participate in the program and the value you will receive.

Registration Fee: \$2925.00 + GST

Please Note - You will be required to complete a minimum number of work experience days in exchange for the training, mentorship and additional costs of the program.

The following are provided in exchange for your work during your mentorship program:

1. Staff Training (outside of certifications)
2. Skill Development in a range of outdoor disciplines (outside of certifications)
3. Food
4. Accommodation
5. Equipment use
6. Transportation during program
7. Workers Compensation Insurance

COST BREAKDOWN

DESCRIPTION	VALUE (CANS)	YOUR COST (CANS)
WAFA - Wilderness Advanced First Aid	525.00	525.00
WFR – Wilderness First Responder, bridge	525.00	525.00
SRT – Swift Water Rescue Level 1 (includes a drysuit rental)	665.00	665.00
Paddle Canada Waterfront Instructor	225.00	0.00
Paddle Canada Lake Skills Introduction Tandem	325.00	0.00
Paddle Canada Lake Skills Intermediate Tandem	325.00	0.00
Paddle Canada Lake Instructor Tandem	425.00	0.00
Paddle Canada Wilderness Camping Skills	325.00	0.00
Paddle Canada Camping Basics Instructor	450.00	0.00
Paddle Canada Moving Water Intro Skills Tandem	325.00	0.00
Paddle Canada Moving Water Intermediate Skills Tandem	325.00	0.00
Paddle Canada Moving Water Intro Instructor Tandem	495.00	0.00
Top Rope Climb Set-up and Site Management	300.00	250.00
Hiking Leader	150.00	0.00
Trail Biking Leader	300.00	0.00
Orienteering Leader	150.00	0.00
Wilderness Living Skills Leader	150.00	0.00
Raft Leader	450.00	250.00

Administrative Fees	500.00	250.00
Food & Accommodation	5000.00	0.00
Equipment use	500.00	500.00
TOTAL (add 5%GST)	11995.00 + GST	2925.00 + GST

You are responsible for the cost of your Paddle Canada membership (\$110+GST) and drivers abstract (between \$25-\$50).

Should you need to leave for any reason before the end of the program, you will be invoiced and responsible for the fees that are remaining. A contract between you and the company will be signed to provide your guarantee to complete the program, or provide payment for the fees remaining.

A criminal record check will be required. HeLa Ventures will arrange and cover the cost of the background checks through BackCheck. Should BackCheck indicate that you require an additional Vulnerable Sectors Check, providing and funding the clearance will be your responsibility.

Application

Who can apply:

The Adventure Leadership Practicum is designed for individuals interested in careers in outdoor education or adventure tourism. Applicants should be able to work long, physically demanding days, live in a remote area with limited cell reception, live in close proximity to others, be eager to learn, and of course, be an outdoor adventure enthusiast. Anyone over 18 can apply. Please ensure you have read the [What is Guiding?](#) document prior to applying. We welcome international participants, however you must have a valid visa/permit to enter Canada (HeLa is not able to assist with this).

Application Process:

A detailed application is needed to ensure the participant's goals and expectations are aligned with those of the ALP program. Candidates will be required to complete both a written application and an in-person or Zoom interview. A resume and cover letter must be submitted (via email) with the application form, which may be found [here](#).

Applications are due by **February 12, 2024**. We will contact you by email once your application has been received.

HeLa is among a prestigious group of outdoor leadership schools. To find a comparison of the HeLa's Adventure Leadership Practicum to other similar programs, [click here](#).

Thank you for your interest. We look forward to hearing from you!

The HeLa Ventures Team