

WHAT IS GUIDING?

Before you begin to peruse the information regarding the Adventure Leadership Practicum, we want to be candid about what to expect from the program. This is a “guide-in-training” program, providing you with the foundational hard skills and leadership skills that you will build upon as you progress in the guiding world. Being a “guide” sounds cool, but as with any profession, it is important that you understand the behind-the-scenes work and challenges you will face as you become an outdoor professional.

So, here are some things to consider...

Guiding is not a *job* with:

- 9-5 workdays;
- A clear distinction between work and personal time;
- A 5 day work week, with regular days or weekends off;
- Consistent breaks throughout the work day;
- Clearly defined “on” and “off” times;
- High monetary rewards... it is not a way to get rich quick!!

Guiding is a *lifestyle*, that is:

- Living within a community of like-minded people;
- A mix of doing cool outdoor pursuits, activities, and community chores;
- Hard work, long hours, and often tiring;
- Working in a team of people who genuinely care about you, the environment, and the experience;
- A chance to meet and get to know your clients, a way to make connections with people of all ages;
- A chance to gain internationally recognized certifications which could take you to unique places around the world;
- A position where the amount of effort you put in is realized by the benefits and rewards that you gain;
- Intrinsically rewarding;
- A lifestyle that you get paid for doing.

Through participation in the Adventure Leadership Practicum, you will:

- Gain many certifications in a short period of time;
- Be mentored by seasoned professionals in the field;
- Gain valuable work experience that will bolster your resume;
- Make lifelong friends and adventure buddies;
- Gain knowledge, skills and certifications in many outdoor activities that you may use for the purpose of instructing/guiding, BUT these will also be valuable in pursuit of your own active outdoor lifestyle;
- Create a strong foundation for a future as an outdoor leader or guide.

So, ideal candidates are:

- Friendly and able to talk to people of all ages and demographics.
- Safety-minded and responsible.
- Team oriented, willing to complete tasks for the sake of the community.
- Internally motivated, demonstrate drive and a desire to learn.
- Lovers of the outdoors regardless of the weather, and are able to stay positive in the pouring rain!!

Based on the information above, please recognize that guiding is not for everyone. If possible, before applying, we encourage you to reach out to someone who has worked in the outdoors before. Folks who have experienced guiding would have more personal insight into what the lifestyle is or is not.

The Adventure Leadership Practicum will require intense commitment for 3.5 months. You will be provided with training and experience, as well as your accommodations and food. We hope that you will enjoy the many benefits and opportunities that come with the program. HeLa is home to many experienced outdoor professionals who are dedicated to helping you overcome challenges you may face and aiding in your success.

Although the initial program is one spring/summer season, we encourage you to think long-term when making this commitment. We are looking for individuals who will come to learn, who will join our team, and who will consider continuing to work on our team in seasons to come. If you enjoy your first season, the following years provide many opportunities to further your training and gain more experience. HeLa Ventures offers many opportunities for advancement, as each year of experience leads to new leadership roles. Life changes and we understand that, but we are looking for folks who would consider building a mutually beneficial relationship with us in the future.

If the lifestyle described above is agreeable to you, we encourage you to apply!