Position: Field Instructor

Cottonwood Institute (CI) is a 501(c)3 non-profit that provides environmental education and service learning programs for middle and high school students. Our mission is to connect students to the natural world and empower them to take action in their schools and communities. We run programs in the Boulder and Denver areas and trips throughout the Front Range.

Description:

Cottonwood Institute is looking for an inspiring and passionate field instructors to lead 1-7 day camping programs throughout the year. Programs include: Leadership and Teambuilding Overnights, Endangered Wolves Project, Fire Ecology Project, Military Kids Project, Flood Restoration Project, and Community Adventure Programs. CI partners with local schools and youth organizations to connect students to the outdoors through low impact camping and service-learning projects. Most programs are based in close proximity to roads throughout the Front Range, however, several programs venture into more backcountry areas throughout Colorado.

Qualifications

- Must be 21 years or older.
- Current certification in Wilderness First Aid and in CPR
- College degree (preferably in pertinent field) or equivalent life experience.
- Valid drivers license, good driving record, and competency driving 15 passenger vans.
- Willingness to be flexible to changing conditions and program demands.
- A minimum of two years experience leading, instructing, or teaching teens in the outdoors including: outdoor cooking, LNT, backpacking, and general wilderness living skills.
- Experience working in with students from a variety of backgrounds including under resourced urban neighborhoods.
- Passion for connecting with teenage students and empowering change.
- Outstanding people skills; ability to work well with adults and teens.
- Excitement for blending service-learning, environmental education, and outdoor education to craft and implement powerful programs based on the CI model.

Preferred Qualifications

- Current certification as a Wilderness Firs Responder and in CPR
- Spanish speaking.
- Experience teaching primitive survival skills.
- Extensive toolbox of teambuilding and leadership skills.
- Working knowledge of local environmental issues.

Responsibilities and Expectations:

- Attend annual Cottonwood Institute Instructor Training (TBA)
- Complete job activities, responsibilities, and pre/post course logistics outlined in the Instructor Training Manual.
- Communicate clearly with CI Administration, Co-instructors, and Partner Organizations.
- Follow CI Emergency Action Plan and Risk Management protocol identified in CI Risk Management Plan.
- Conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times.
- Oversee the overall risk management during programming activities and be responsible for the safety of all

participants and volunteers.
- Attend a pre-course meeting with instructors and Program Director to discuss the program schedule and main activities.
- Drive students to and from sites and occasionally lead volunteer drivers with maps and good directions.
- Facilitate groups of teens (and/or adults) in the field and create a physically and emotionally safe space for participants to experience themselves and the natural world.
- Model impeccable camping, leadership, communication, and expedition behavior skills to the group and other instructors.
- Implement assigned service projects when applicable.
- Manage food, cooking groups and outdoor kitchen.
- Record experiences with pictures, video, and participant quotes.
- Complete post program logistics: return gear and rental vehicles, complete program paperwork, write blog post for the CI website, attend a post-program reflection meeting with co-instructors and program administration.

Compensation: This is a temporary independent contractor position. Compensation will be based on experience ranging from $75-$150/day.

To Apply: Send cover letter, resume, and contact information for three professional references to madeline@cottonwoodinstitute.org