

# Adventure Trips Raft Guide

## RecSports Outdoor Program

University of Tennessee

### Introduction

Our undergraduate and graduate level staff have a varied background, coming from across the state of Tennessee and beyond. Recreation, biology, information technology, philosophy, art, geology, and speech pathology represent some of the various majors our staff studies.

The love of the outdoors draws this diverse group together. It is our priority to find students who are passionate about the outdoors, want to share this love with others, are willing to learn new skills, and then eventually share these skills with others.

In applying to work for the Outdoor Program as a Raft Guide, you will be working shifts to prepare for and execute whitewater raft trips. Working other positions inside our department is possible.

### Expectations

You must provide an overall **attitude of genuine kindness, thoughtfulness and insatiable curiosity** due to a love of learning. **"Type A" personalities** who exhibit the above traits, are highly desired.

**A positive work ethic is important.** While it is work, we enjoy it because we all have a tendency to do our jobs as well as possible and help others to have amazing experiences. We expect you to develop into the type of person who, when you graduate, we are reluctant to let go of because of your work ethic, teaching ability, and warm personality.

You could work anywhere else but **you have chosen to work for the RecSports Outdoor Program.** By working here, you are looking for more than just a paycheck. You should be looking to join a community, to **become an excellent teacher and leader** and of course, to have solid outdoor skills. In return, we expect you will always bring a positive attitude and work ethic to work and make the program an important part of your undergraduate or graduate experience.

As an Adventure Trip Staff with the Outdoor Program, **you are expected to serve as a leader among your peers and go beyond what is expected of you.** You must become knowledgeable about all facets of the Outdoor Program. This includes the Bike Shop, Outdoor Center, Gear Rentals, and the Trip Program.

You must have the ability to work with minimal supervision. The Adventure Trips Raft Guides needs to be **autonomous and self-starting.** This position requires a commitment to the Outdoor Program. Make sure that you can successfully juggle academic responsibilities and trip staff duties throughout your tenure as a UT student.

As an Adventure Trips Raft Guide you will work with the coordinators, graduate assistant, trips managers, and trip leaders to ensure proper maintenance and inventory of the whitewater raft related equipment including rafts, paddle, life jackets, helmets, and rescue gear. You will need to have worked as a checked out raft guide at a commercial outfitter that rafts on a class III+ rivers and rapids; or have documented training or similar skills and experiences. Adventure Trip Raft Guides must take a swiftwater rescue class every 2 years. This is provided on an annual basis at no cost by the RecSports Outdoor Program professional staff.

We expect **open and direct communication** and hold ourselves and others accountable for duties, decisions, mistakes, words, and actions. The RecSports Outdoor Program is a student run program, with direction and coordination provided by two Co-Coordinator. To make this program run smoothly, the **Adventure Trips Raft Guide is expected to take part in all RecSports Outdoor Program trainings, train other staff and improve the program however possible.**

## Requirements

- Commercial experience as a checked out raft guide on rivers rated class III+ or higher
  - Similar experience with documented trainings or credentials may be accepted
- Previous swiftwater rescue training through a commercial outfitter or certified instructor
- Basic familiarity with how rafts trips run, operate, and weather impacts a trip

- Minimum Wilderness First Aid, Adult/Infant/Child CPR and AED or higher level certification.
- Fulltime enrolled student.
- A 2.5 GPA or higher (a lower GPA may be considered if an applicant excels with other desired qualities).
- Successful completion of a university driving record check.
- Checking or savings account for direct deposit.
- Clean driving record (out of state students may need to pay to obtain their state driving history).
- Acceptance of the above expectations.
- Commitment to work 2 raft trips per semester
- Attend all required staff trainings.
- Attend mandatory staff meetings.
- 18 years of age or older.
- Have or able to secure in 7 days of an interview: original, signed, non-laminated Social Security card; or original passport. These are required IDs to complete new hire paperwork.

## **Job Description**

These specific duties and descriptions are in addition to the more general and normal activities that go on daily.

The general activities include, but are not limited to:

- Monitor weather and water levels for upcoming trips
- Work with Gear Manager to coordinate equipment for trips and van use.
- Work with rafting trip leaders and trips manager to facilitate planning, organizing, and attending pre-trip meetings.
- Work with rafting trip leaders and trips manager to ensure all paperwork is completed.
- Communicate with participants regarding their trip
- Receive and give critical trip feedback.

## **Time Frame**

The RecSports Outdoor Program leads rafting trips on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year. Work hours are mainly during the weekend, but some short hours during the week are required.

Staff who are committed and add value to the program will be asked to stay on each semester until graduation.

## **Wage Range**

\$7.40 to \$8.50 after 3 years of service at an entry level. Promotion to higher positions is possible.

## **Average Hours Per Week**

10 to 12 hours per week when a trip is scheduled (Typically 3-4 trips per semester)

## **How to Apply**

### **Your *cover letter* should cover:**

- What your most relevant skill & experience is and your raft guide experience
  - Include the number of season, locations, rivers, and relevant training
- Why you want to work with the UT RecSports Outdoor Program
- The type of work environment you work best in

### **Please submit the following with this application:**

- Professional resume
- Cover letter

Please send your completed application to [tknight@utk.edu](mailto:tknight@utk.edu)