



# Adventure Program Instructor Position

Based in Utah's beautiful San Rafael Swell, Elements Wilderness Program (adolescents boys & co-ed young adults) provides a healthy therapeutic environment for young people struggling with a variety of issues. While with us, our students (and their families) are provided the opportunity to explore their past choices, practice healthy communication/interpersonal conflict resolution, seek to understand themselves on a deeper level and set a new course for their futures. The Adventure Program Department provides a variety of adventure-based programs on a weekly basis that enhance and enrich the wilderness therapy experience.

- We are seeking an Adventure Program (AP) Instructor to join our tight-knit AP team! This can be a full time or part time position. Part time position structure is flexible: preference for alternating shifts of AP and field work, however, part time AP work exclusively is also an option. For those already employed by Elements, there are **two open positions**, one on Sage and one on Pine shift.

## Role

The AP Instructor manages the emotional and physical risks of adventure-based activities in the field while also weaving into the experience thematic metaphor to deepen the student's therapeutic experience. Rooted in challenge by choice principles, AP instructors provide opportunities for students to step out of their comfort zone and into a zone of growth by guiding outdoor rock climbing TR, rappelling, and team building initiatives. AP Instructors also guide stand-up paddle boarding, fly fishing, canyoneering, leather working skills and mountain biking, but only after receiving the necessary training. AP instructors will occasionally work with the family services department to facilitate a guided adventure day for a visiting family. This position will require strong emotional and physical risk management skill sets, clear communication, creativity, flexibility and previous experience guiding clients in a professional outdoor setting.

## Schedule

- Alternating 6 days on/8 days off
- Expectation to also participate in department meetings, trainings, and work events that may sometimes land outside of the 6 day shift

## Responsibilities

- During a shift, there will be a mix of office days and days of facilitating adventure activities in the field
- Facilitations days can be one day (most common) to multiple days long, depending on the activity
- During facilitation day:
  - Call the group prior to the facilitation to come up with a plan & gain pertinent information that will apply to the day
  - Contact the group's therapist if needed when considering highly supervised clients for participation in an activity
  - Arrive on site before the group in order to set up
  - Hard skills instruction, staying within the scope of relevant, certified training
  - Supervision of the AP site and the safety of all participants is paramount
  - Collaboration with field staff to construct a theme for the day that will help deepen the meaning of the student's therapeutic, adventure experience
  - Checking gear back into storage after the facilitation & inspecting for wear/damage
  - Completion a report for each facilitation day (sent to therapists and the field department)

- On office days, actively work on gear shed projects (inventory, cleaning, repairing, etc.) or projects that either expand upon our current curriculum or introduce new activities/curriculum
- Be familiar with Elements Policy & Procedures and the AP Manual, as working with an at-risk population can be different from guiding with an outfitter
- Scout new areas for curriculum development/other current sites that need 'cleaning' and/or risk assessment
- Participate in annual Elements trainings, as well as quarterly evaluations within your department

### Position Qualifications

- AMGA Single Pitch Instructor certification or have taken a more advanced AMGA rock course / evaluation
  - NOTE: If you have taken your course, are planning on taking the test, and can submit your evaluation from your course instructor you can still be considered a candidate for this position.
- Wilderness First Responder certification or higher
- Be at least 21 years of age

### Other Required Skills

- At least 1 year of experience guiding high angle activities
- Backcountry navigation skills
- Ability to carry a 40lb pack for at least a couple miles on rough, off-trail terrain
- Strong interpersonal & rapport building skills
- Detail-oriented, risk management mindset
- Openness to providing others with feedback and receiving feedback
- Preference given to those with prior experience working in a therapeutic setting
- A benefit, although not a requirement, to have personal knowledge/professional experience guiding: mountain biking, water sports (SUP, fly fishing), yoga/meditation practices, leather crafts and/or canyoneering.
- A 4x4 capable vehicle

### Compensation

- Pay starts anywhere between \$36,000 to \$40,000 a year based on experience
- 3 weeks paid time off
- Health insurance + Vision & Dental
- Reimbursement of wilderness medicine re-certifications and AMGA SPI exams upon passing grade
- Professional development stipend (with a time commitment)
- Pro-deals

### Application Instructions

- Please submit your resume, cover letter, and SPI eval and/or certifications to:
  - [Madison Brandt - Adventure Program Director madison@elementswilderness.com](mailto:madison@elementswilderness.com)
  - Include in your resume a section about your climbing/high angle experience in both professional and personal capacities.
- A 2-day working interview in Huntington, Utah may be scheduled after a phone interview.
- Timeline:
  - Phone interviews will be done as applications are received.
  - Working interviews starting as early as late June.
  - Goal for positions to be filled as early as August 17th