

UNCG Outdoor Adventures Hiring Information

Thank you for your interest in employment with UNCG Outdoor Adventures. The information below is intended to provide more details regarding the student employee positions available within our program.

Outdoor Adventures is a program within the Department of Recreation & Wellness and is housed in the Leonard J. Kaplan Center for Wellness. Outdoor Adventures serves the UNCG community through adventure trips, indoor climbing, and outdoor equipment rentals.

Our Mission is to promote healthy, active lifestyles through outdoor recreation activities for the UNCG community. We aspire to enhance our participants' environmental awareness and technical outdoor skills while fostering a sense of community and encouraging positive relationships.

Outdoor Adventures receives many applications every year for the limited openings available, therefore, if an applicant is not selected for an interview or position the first time they apply we strongly encourage re-applying the following academic year.

Some of the qualifications we look for in potential student staff members are listed below:

- Enrollment at UNCG and in good academic standing (2.0 GPA minimum required)
- Willingness to make a minimum of a 2-year commitment to the program
- Previous experience participating and/or leading outdoor recreation activities
- Previous leadership and/or teaching experience
- Previous customer service experience
- Interest in trip leading
- Ability to work in a team-oriented environment
- Willingness to learn and develop practical and transferable leadership skills
- Current CPR, AED, and First Aid for the Professional Rescuer certification (must complete prior to working, available through the department upon hire)
- Enthusiasm for outdoor recreation!

When hired, new student staff members are trained to work at the climbing wall, our rental and registration desk, and in our backroom preparing for trips and rentals. This mandatory training occurs for several days prior to the start of the spring semester. Following the pre-semester training, trainees are assigned to shifts with experienced staff members who will mentor and continue their training throughout the semester. This training and mentoring process includes completing training checklists and concludes with a practical and written test.

Student staff will be required to become belay certified before beginning the training process and are expected to become comfortable with lead climbing policies/procedures in our facility and may be required to work Lead Climbing sessions occasionally. Trainings occur once staff are comfortable with top rope belaying/climbing and weekly practice sessions are made available. Students with a specific interest in climbing are encouraged to pursue route setting as well. This training will occur during the semester, allowing staff to become eligible to set for competitions and regular semesters. Belay Clinic and Lead Climbing Clinic instruction is also an opportunity for advancement and will be available to students who complete the training process.

Opportunities for additional hours are available at Piney Lake, UNCG's 48-Acre lake property 8 miles south of campus. Students will be assisting monitoring informal recreation, safety and security at the property, and maintaining equipment and facilities at the property during weekends during the summer and Spring/Fall semesters.

While completing training student staff members may pursue trip leader training. Trip leading is not a requirement of employment with Outdoor Adventures, however, it is encouraged. The majority of Outdoor Adventures student staff members also work as trip leaders. To learn more about becoming a trip leader, please read the Trip Leader training information on the next page.

Trip Leader Training Progression

Interested in becoming a Trip Leader with Outdoor Adventures? Here is how it works...

1) Obtain employment with Outdoor Adventures

All new trip leaders must first be hired as Outdoor Adventures staff members.

2) Participate in trip activities

Continue or begin to participate on trips you have an interest in pursuing as a trip leader. The more you participate in activities you desire to lead, the quicker you will obtain the skills and experience necessary to become a leader in those activities. Some of our most successful leaders often pursue the activities they lead in their personal time as well. Personal experiences can really help push you to the next leadership level due to the limited number of opportunities we can provide at Outdoor Adventures.

3) Apply for, Enroll in, and successfully complete CTR 203: Fundamentals of Outdoor Leadership

CTR 203 is offered during the Fall semester. This 3-credit hour course is designed to provide you with the foundations of being a successful student trip leader for Outdoor Adventures. The course is 2-hours a week (traditionally, on Wednesday Afternoons) and covers trip policies and procedures, leadership specific topics, risk management, group facilitation, and much more. In addition, the course requires mandatory attendance on multiple field experiences that further develop your outdoor experience and leader development. There is an additional course fee attached to this course to cover the expenses of the field experiences. Due to the class size maximum, there is an application process, which will be made available to all student staff during the Spring semester.

4) Attend activity trainings

Activity trainings take place during Fall semester staff training (the week before classes begin) and throughout the semesters. These trainings are designed for new and current trip leaders. The trainings serve as a refresher for current trip leaders and as an introduction for new leaders. You only need to attend trainings for activities that you have an interest in leading; however, this is also good time to “feel out” some of our activities and further refine your areas of interests.

5) Obtain Wilderness First Aid (WFA) Certification

This 2-day national certification course is provided by the Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI) of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and is required for all new OA trip leaders. The course is conveniently offered by Outdoor Adventures every March and takes place at UNCG’s Piney Lake. Outdoor Adventures currently covers 100% of the cost for obtaining this certification (a \$200 value).

6) Become an Apprentice Leader

Beginning during your participation in the CTR 203 course, new trip leaders will begin to be scheduled on trips in their areas of interest at the apprentice level. By design, the apprentice has less responsibility than the assistant trip leader and trip leader, but still has important responsibility and leadership roles on every trip.

7) Become an Assistant and/or Trip Leader

Moving through leadership rank depends on several factors, which include: type of trip (day hike vs. backpacking), length of trip (day vs. overnight), leadership development, level of experience, and further training (i.e. Wilderness First Responder certification). Since many of those factors are subjective, each leader is assigned new roles and responsibilities on the leadership team on an individual basis and under supervision of the Outdoor Adventures professional staff and fellow trip leaders.

Overall, being a trip leader requires a high level of commitment and investment of personal time and energy. However, students that pursue trip leading get to travel to many awesome outdoor locations, develop practical leadership and technical outdoor skills, and experience the excitement of leading groups in the outdoors—all very rewarding aspects of the job. In addition to having great experiences in the outdoors, student trip leaders walk away with very marketable skills that will assist them in any future profession and career.

For additional employment information, please contact:

Alex Hauer
Coordinator, UNCG Outdoor Adventures
Department of Recreation & Wellness
recwell.uncg.edu/oa/ | 336-334-5931 (office) | alex.hauer@uncg.edu