



Sherpa Position Description

SOS Outreach is an outdoor adventure sports-based youth development organization. Our goal is to help build character, self-esteem, and leadership skills in at-risk youth through outdoor adventure sports. We partner with youth-serving agencies and resorts to provide multi-day programs that incorporate a set of core values (courage, discipline, integrity, wisdom and compassion).

Sherpas are mentors who work closely with a small group of SOS youth (approximately 5) for at least one year in the University program. Sherpas support their youth through five ride days and various service learning components and life skills workshops. Sherpas typically work ten to twenty hours per month, from September through August. The University program takes place in California, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington.

Sherpa responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Attending three Sherpa training sessions- general, database and on-hill
- Attending and participating in monthly Sherpa meetings
- Attending and participating in all University events five ride days, service learning projects and life skills workshops
- Maintaining regular contact with each youth participant and their families, at least three times a month
- Maintaining regular contact with the overseeing SOS Program Director or Manager
- Teaching and modeling the five core values and Mountain Safety Code
- Assisting youth in developing goals and monitoring their progress
- Monitoring students skiing or snowboarding progress
- Ensuring students have appropriate equipment for each activity
- Tracking students attendance at each event
- Inputting participant notes and progress of each student through the SOS online database
- Preparing for and facilitating a portion of the end of season graduation

Helpful Skills/Interests

1. Experience, comfort, and passion in working with disadvantaged youth and low-income families
2. Spanish language proficiency and cultural literacy
3. Ability to model and support skiing or snowboarding skill development
4. Awareness of factors impacting the lives of underserved youth
5. Willingness to learn about privilege, racism, and oppression and how these social constructions impact students and staff
6. Interest in outdoor based sports and activities such as: camping, rock climbing, paddle sports, skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, hiking and backpacking
7. Strong communication and organization skills
8. A desire to make a positive difference in the community