

Job Description – Paddle Leader

Overview

As a Paddle Leader you will be responsible for the safety of the group to which you're assigned whilst paddling and/or engaging in activities on or in the margins of the river/body of water. You will lead and manage your group in conjunction with at least one other expedition leader and will operate within the parameters set by British Exploring Society, the Chief Leader and/or Senior Paddle Leader.

Profile

Necessary Skills

- An interest in youth development and experience of working with young people relevant to the expedition client group*
- High levels of integrity and sound judgement
- A strong and flexible team player
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong leadership skills and the ability to inspire others
- The ability to deal with conflict and overcome challenges
- Significant personal expedition and travel experience
- Significant personal paddling experience, including multi-day/week trips in remote areas
- An enthusiasm for expeditions and paddling – and the ability to convey this to our Explorers
- Relevant UK National Governing Body or recognisable/equivalent qualifications (i.e. *British Canoeing Moderate Water Leader, British Canoeing White Water Canoe Coach* or the previous generation *Level 3 Certificate in Coaching Paddlesport - Open Canoe*) or significant demonstrable equivalent & relevant experience
- Environment specific experience relating to the expedition location and the nature of the bodies of water involved
- Experience of managing/coaching beginner groups while paddling and in remote/challenging environments
- Recognised water safety and rescue qualification(s)
- Recognised adventure/wilderness first aid qualification (*weekend training course provided free of charge by British Exploring Society*)

**client groups vary between expeditions and may include young people with special educational needs, low aspirations, emotional and behavioural difficulties of specific developmental or support needs. Please see the relevant expedition pages for more details.*

Responsibilities

Pre-Expedition

- Attend training residentials in the UK during the 6 months prior to the expedition. UK Training requirements are specific to each expedition and the needs of the client group and may include 3-4 training weekends and/or a training week. All training events are considered mandatory.

- Contribute to planning, risk assessments, expedition-specific guidelines and similar as appropriate and directed by British Exploring Society and/or the Chief Leader, particularly in your area of expertise
- Plan the group's paddle activities in liaison with the Chief Leader and/or Senior Paddle Leader.

On Expedition

All responsibilities for your group in the field are shared with the second (and third where applicable) group leader, except those which pertain directly to your expertise (i.e. paddling)

- To inspire our participants and engage fully in activities to support the educational aims and purpose of the society and expedition
- To facilitate learning opportunities for all expedition participants in your group
- Responsibility for, and pastoral care of, explorers in your group
- Overall responsibility for safety and adventurous activities of the group assisted by the second (and third) group leader
- Train explorers in basic paddle skills pertinent to the proposed activity / itinerary
- To train the explorers in the methods necessary to live and operate in the expedition environment
- Carry out planned paddle activities and facilitate wider expedition projects
- All leaders must regard it as a priority to ensure the safety of each and every member of the expedition at all times
- To manage a feedback and review process with explorers in the group following the structure provided by British Exploring Society
- Where an assistant or trainee leader is attached to your group, to give them responsibility as appropriate, oversee their actions and provide learning opportunities

Post Expedition

- To produce an overview report for the activities you have been in charge of
- Contribute to the overall post expedition report (PXR), and expedition feedback as appropriate and directed by British Exploring Society and/or Chief Leader
- Attend the expedition debrief event & presentation. This is usually a single day event held in London or around within three months post expedition.