



## **Wilderness Wind**

2945 Hwy 169 Ely, MN 55731 218.365.5873  
www.wildernesswind.org

Job Description: **Program staff /Trip Leader**

*Wilderness Wind's mission  
is to nurture relationships with God and creation through wilderness living which promotes  
spirituality, cooperation and environmental sustainability.*

### **Basic Qualifications**

- A strong appreciation for the wilderness and the gifts it offers us in relationship to God, to ourselves and to the rest of God's creation.
- A commitment to the spiritual journey and to the model of Jesus.
- An awareness of how our relationship to the earth affects the decisions we make.
- A basic comfort in the wilderness, confidence in their camping skills and or ability and eagerness to learn
- Basic leadership skills, including communication, facilitating decisions and being alert to group dynamics
- An awareness of their own limitations and strengths
- A strong bias to safety, and a familiarity and comfort around water
- A current certification in First Aid, CPR and Water Safety (with some exceptions with Water Safety Training upon discussion)
- An ability to canoe in a variety of water and weather conditions, or the physical ability to learn
- Enjoyment from working and living in community

### **Responsibilities**

Trip leaders are responsible for the following aspects of this job. At times, trip leaders lead solo and at others, they will co-lead. Training for many of the following responsibilities is provided during staff orientation week and working alongside an experienced staff person. We will not require anything of you, that you or the staff coordinator, do not feel you are qualified to carry out.

### **Working Around Base Camp**

All trip leading staff spend at least one week a month working around base camp and the lakeside property. This work includes the following:

- 1) Maintaining and repairing camping equipment
- 2) Helping with the maintenance of buildings and facilities
- 3) Aiding in the kitchen with food preparation and clean up
- 4) Mowing lawns, cutting wood, and cleaning facilities
- 5) Caring for daily and weekly systems related to trip program such as cleaning, preparing for a group's arrival addressing and their needs throughout their stay.
- 6) Program development: worship and devotional prep, scouting new trip areas, dreaming of and implementing projects regarding environmental sustainability
- 7) Computer data entry
- 8) Other tasks as they arise

### **Orienting Groups**

With the support of other staff, trip leaders are responsible to orient their groups with the following skills and information (not limited to these):

- 1) Wilderness Ethics
- 2) Canoeing and Portaging skills
- 3) Tent set up and care
- 4) Menu Planning and Food Packing
- 5) Use and care of trip gear
- 6) Route planning
- 7) Water safety guidelines

### **Leading Canoe Trips**

Trip leaders are responsible to be alert and aware of all facets of the canoe trip. Leaders are not required to do everything, but are responsible to make sure everything is cared for. Our goal is to provide a wilderness experience that has spiritual, emotional, relational and physical significance. Within a few structural guidelines, we help the group design the type of experience they desire. Trip leading includes the following:

- 1) Making and/or facilitating decisions about route, length of day, when to break camp, establishing meal times, who should cook...
- 2) Having a strong bias to safety in balance with fully experiencing the wilderness. Attentiveness is required while traveling on the water or activities around camp. It also requires discussions with those involved in activities, and assessing the related safety issues.
- 3) Assisting groups in camp set up, and meal preparation and offering guidance in establishing and understanding routines.
- 4) Leading reflection times with the group. As a summer staff we create a reflection guide which is used as a guideline throughout the summer. This is adapted by each trip leader according to the needs and interests of the group.
- 5) Teaching canoeing, portaging, and camping skills.
- 6) Making sure equipment is cared for and maintained
- 7) Inviting trip participants into the ecosystems and culture of the area and providing space and time for them to open up to a sense of awe.

**Position starts in late May and goes until mid to late August (dates are flexible).**

For additional information, please see *Staff Benefits and Understandings*

Wilderness Wind Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and abides by all valid applicable nondiscrimination laws.