Role Description – Adventure Leader

Overview

In partnership with a second, and possibly third Leader, you will lead a group (“Fire”) of approximately 10 - 12 Young Explorers. As the Adventure Leader you will be responsible for the adventurous activities of the group during the Expedition Programme, within the parameters set by the Chief Leader and where applicable the Senior Adventure Leader.

Senior Adventure Leader

In many cases this role will be fulfilled by the Chief Leader. The Senior Adventure Leader will have relevant technical skills in order to have overall responsibility for the adventurous activities on expedition and will offer advice and support to Adventure Leaders with route planning.

Responsibilities

Pre-Expedition

- Attend all relevant training residential in the UK 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 adventure activities in liaison with the Chief Leader, second group Leader and where applicable a Senior Adventure Leader.

On Expedition

All responsibilities for your group in the field are shared with the other group Leaders, except those which pertain directly to your expertise (e.g. mountaineering).

- To inspire our Young Explorers and engage fully in activities to support the educational aims and purpose of the charity and expedition.
- To facilitate learning opportunities for all Young Explorers in your group.
- Responsibility for, and pastoral care of, Young Explorers in your group.
- Overall responsibility for safety and adventurous activities of the group assisted by the second and/or third group Leader.
- To train the Young Explorers, and other Leaders as necessary, in the methods necessary to live and operate in the expedition environment.
- Carry out the planned adventurous activities and facilitate any wider expedition projects.
- All Leaders must always regard it as a priority to ensure the safety of each and every member of the expedition programme at all times.
To manage a feedback and review process with Young 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, in coordination with the Trainee Leader Mentor

Post Expedition

To produce an overview report for the activities you have been responsible for
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 approximately 2 months after your return from expedition.
Contribute towards the development of the Area Info pack, in particular to any additional information or risks that should also be included in subsequent versions

Person Specification

Essential

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
Environment specific experience relating to the Expedition Programme (i.e. high altitude, jungle)
Experience of managing groups in outdoor or remote/harsh environments
An enthusiasm for expeditions and the ability to convey this to our Young Explorers
Recognised 16-hour adventure/wilderness First Aid Qualification, (provided free of charge by British Exploring Society)
Relevant National Governing Body or recognisable qualifications or significant demonstrable equivalent & relevant experience

*client groups vary between expeditions and may include young people with special educational needs, low aspirations, emotional and behavioural difficulties or specific developmental or support needs. Please see the relevant expedition pages for more details.
British Exploring Society is committed to building an executive and volunteer team that together represent a diverse variety of backgrounds, skills, and perspectives on the world. The more inclusive we are, the better we think we’ll be at delivering our charitable aims.

Our focus is on supporting those most disadvantaged in childhood and adolescence. To deliver our charitable aims, and secure our future, our actions and behaviours must support our commitment to welcoming young people, volunteers and team members from backgrounds and life experiences which reflect our aims and the changing dynamics of contemporary life. We are making good progress providing access and programmes which work for young people from right across society, but we urgently need to diversify our staff and volunteer teams. We actively seek the energy, wisdom, and challenge of those who represent the life experiences of the young people we serve, and who can increase our effectiveness as a team.