Role Description – Knowledge Leader

Overview

The Knowledge Leader role has been created to reflect and embed our unique method of adventure, personal development, and knowledge. Our aspiration is that this role will allow greater flexibility for Leaders to play to their strengths and expertise to design and deliver engaging, relevant and meaningful projects for our Young Explorers.

The role of a Knowledge Leader is to:

- Lead a group (“Fire”) of approximately 9 - 12 Young Explorers (participants) in partnership with one or two other Leaders.

- Inspire curiosity in science, media and the environment they are in through the experiences we provide.

- Give direction and meaning to the curiosity we inspire; to consider the purpose of science and media on the expedition and beyond.

- Give young people the tools to explore their curiosity through the development of skills and practical techniques.

To achieve this, it is the responsibility of the Senior Knowledge Leader, Knowledge Leaders and the collaboration of all leaders to design and deliver a programme of inspirational, educational projects.

Senior Knowledge Leaders will take overall responsibility for all knowledge projects taking place on their expedition. This will involve designing the overall knowledge plan for the expedition, in liaison with other Knowledge Leaders and coordination of skills training sessions at the training weekends. The Senior Knowledge Leader will liaise with British Exploring Society and the Chief Leader to identify and source any equipment requirements for the expedition. Post expedition they will compile and edit a Knowledge Report in collaboration with other expedition Knowledge Leaders.

Responsibilities

Pre-Expedition

- Attend all relevant prior to the expedition. 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 your group's activities, including John Muir Award delivery, in liaison with the Senior Knowledge Leader and other expedition Leaders.
• Work with the Senior Knowledge Leader to submit a Project Proposal and request for any necessary equipment and materials (scientific, media).

• Liaise with the British Exploring Society team to identify media content objectives to support wider organisational projects and marketing activities.

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. science/media work).

• Inspire participants and engage fully in activities to support the aims and purpose of British Exploring Society and the expedition.

• Facilitate learning opportunities for all expedition participants in your group.

• Assume responsibility of and provision of pastoral care for participants in your group.

• Train the participants in the methods necessary to live and operate in the environment.

• Carry out the planned knowledge projects and facilitate any wider expedition activities.

• Produce and facilitate the creation of media content as per pre-agreement with British Exploring Society.

• All leaders must always regard it as a priority to ensure the safety of each member of the expedition.

Post Expedition

• Contribute to the overall Knowledge post expedition report (PXR) and expedition feedback as appropriate and directed by British Exploring Society, Chief Leader and/or Senior Knowledge Leader.

• Produce & provide British Exploring Society with previously agreed media content (images and/or edited video footage) within one month of returning from expedition.

• Where relevant, assist in providing follow-up for projects as appropriate.

• Attend the expedition debrief event & presentation. This is usually a single day event held in London approximately 2 months after your return from expedition.

N.B. Any photos and videos used in marketing will be credited where possible.

Person Specification

Essential

• An interest in youth development and experience of working with young people relevant to the expedition client group*.

• Expertise in a relevant field such as delivering scientific fieldwork/ environmental education/ creative media projects.
• An enthusiasm for expedition fieldwork and the ability to convey this to our participants.
• 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 challenge effectively.
• Recognised 16-hour adventure/wilderness First Aid Qualification. (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 or specific developmental or support needs. Please see the relevant expedition pages for more details.

Desirable

• Proven professional experience and/or qualifications (academic or vocational) relating to area of expertise.
• Significant personal fieldwork, expedition and/or travel experience inside and outside the UK.
• Experience of managing teams and multi-disciplinary projects.
• Adventurous/outdoor leadership activity qualifications and/or training.

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.