

## Job Description – Social Leader

### Overview

British Exploring Society leadership teams are made up of a diverse mix of professionals from different backgrounds including outdoors instructors, medics and science leaders. On some expeditions, where BES works with specific groups of young people or those referred from a specific youth service, Social Leaders are recruited to the team to provide additional support with pastoral care and behavioural management for young people facing challenges. Typically, our Social Leaders come from a youth work background and will have significant experience working directly with young people, ideally in a residential environment.

During UK training, you will be required to deliver workshops, games, ice breakers and training activities. You will be supported in the delivery of activities by a team of Adventure Leaders, and you may have Adventurers (past participants on the programme who have returned to continue their development) to support you too. You will also contribute towards recruitment decisions and help select the final young people from the training programme to take part in the expedition phase.

During the expedition you will be responsible for a group of approximately 12 young people alongside your Adventure Leader(s). As a Social Leader, you will take lead responsibility for pastoral care of the group and for the personal development aspects of the expedition programme.

Because of the nature of our programmes, we often need Social Leaders who support the UK training phases only, as well as those who are recruited to support all phases of the programme both in the UK and overseas. You will be told at the time of your appointment which phases of the programme we would like you to work on.

### Profile

#### Necessary Skills and Experience

- Significant previous experience of working with disadvantaged groups or young people facing challenges
- Experience of working with young people on both a one-to-one and group basis
- Residential experience
- Experience of supporting young people in potentially stressful environments
- Adventure First Aid Qualification (weekend training course subsidised by British Exploring Society)
- Safeguarding training certificate (British Exploring Society can recommend a course if required)
- Experience of designing and delivering activities, workshops and informal learning to groups of young people

## **Desirable Attributes**

- Relevant qualification in Youth Work or Social Work
- Previous experience of expedition environment or outdoors activities
- Mental health First Aid training

## **Responsibilities**

### **Pre-Expedition**

- Liaise with Senior Social Leader and / or relevant key workers where relevant to understand support needs of the young people within your group and ensure continuity of support between the service and the programme, both during the training and on completion of the expedition
- Liaise with Explorers and Adventurers between training events (see BES technology and social media guidelines for further details), to ensure they are aware of arrangements for each upcoming training weekend/week and maintain retention and enthusiasm between training events
- Assist in the development of goal focussed self-assessment, monitoring and evaluation processes and assist other members of the leadership team in the use of these processes

### **On Expedition**

- All leaders must regard it as a priority to ensure the safety of every member of the expedition at all times
- Accompany a group of 12 Explorers on the expedition and take lead responsibility for the delivery of youth development activities during the expedition phase
- Provide pastoral care and support for Explorers within your group
- Supervise daily group meetings, the completion of one-to-one reviews and feedback on progress to Explorers, in a constructive and sympathetic manner

### **Post Expedition**

- Attend the Explorer debrief event
- Write incident reports and contribute to the expedition report if requested