Role Description – Social Leader

Overview

The Social Leader role exists to ensure that all young people can develop and thrive on our expeditions. They provide additional support with pastoral care and behavioural management for young people, particularly those facing challenges. Typically, our Social Leaders will come from a youth work background and will have significant frontline experience working directly with young people, ideally in a residential environment.

The role of a Social Leader is to:

- Lead a group (“Fire”) of approximately 9 - 12 Young Explorers (participants) in partnership with one or two other Leaders.
- Take lead responsibility for the pastoral care of the group.
- Ensure the creation of an inclusive and supportive environment that welcomes young people regardless of their background.
- Support personal development and group cohesion through the delivery of icebreakers, games and activities, reflections and reviews.

Senior Social Leaders will take overall responsibility for pastoral care and behavioural management concerns on their programme, leading pre-expedition training and offering support to Social Leaders throughout expedition. They will screen referral forms and any additional information regarding support needs ahead of the expedition, and will complete the Social post-expedition report.

Responsibilities

Pre-Expedition

- Attend all relevant training 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.
- Liaise with the British Exploring Society team, Senior Social Leader, parents / guardians / 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.
- 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 responsibilities for your group in the field are shared with the other group Leaders.
• Inspire participants and engage fully in activities to support the aims and purpose of British Exploring Society and the expedition.

• Take lead responsibility for the delivery of youth development activities in your group.

• Provide behaviour management, pastoral care and support for Young Explorers within your group.

• Supervise daily group meetings, the completion of one-to-one reviews and feedback on progress to Young Explorers, in a constructive and sympathetic manner.

• 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 Social post expedition report (PXR) and expedition feedback as appropriate and directed by British Exploring Society, Chief Leader and/or Senior Social Leader.

• Where relevant, assist in providing follow-up information and support for partners and key workers.

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

Person Specification

Essential

• An interest in youth development and significant experience of working with disadvantaged groups or young people facing challenges*.

• Experience of designing and delivering activities, workshops and informal learning to groups of young people.

• Experience of working with young people on both a one-to-one and group basis.

• Experience of supporting young people in potentially stressful environments, particularly outdoor / residential.

• 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

- Relevant qualification in Youth Work or Social Work.
- Mental Health First Aid training.
- 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.