



**POSITION TITLE: Winter Intern**  
**PROGRAM: Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra**  
**REPORTS TO: Agency Mentor, Mark Spieler**

## **GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (DSES) is an organization dedicated to sharing the fun of the winter mountain environment to those with disabilities. Our Vision is:

**“We believe the freedom and exhilaration of outdoor challenges changes lives. No one should be left behind simply because of a disability!”**

Based at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area’s Main Lodge, DSES runs one of the largest adaptive ski and snowboard schools in the state of California.

Our goal is to have fun while we are sharing that fun with others. Most of our lessons are taught by volunteers who are hooked on the feeling they get helping those with disabilities succeed and have fun skiing and riding.

Our Internship Program is focused around the on-hill adaptive education of our disabled students, helping them have fun and achieve success. We work with any kind of disability and with various pieces of adaptive equipment.

Our program is also designed to give Interns exposure to different aspects of running a nonprofit adaptive winter sports school. This includes: the scheduling of student lessons and volunteers, fundraising, special event planning, guest service, program development, and PSIA/AASI Certifications.

In the winter, we teach those with disabilities how to Alpine and Nordic Ski, as well as Snowboard. Among other benefits, our Interns enjoy skiing/riding privileges at Mammoth and June Mountains as well as free housing provided by DSES through MMSA Employee Housing!

## **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

**Education:** Enrolled in a college or university program requiring a related internship prior to graduation.

**Certifications:** Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) Adaptive/Alpine or Snowboard certification preferred but not necessary. Current First Aid/CPR and/or Wilderness First Responder preferred but not necessary.



**Motivation/Skill Set:** Candidate should be highly motivated to work in a compassionate environment providing services for the disabled population. Strong communication skills are necessary as well as the ability to adapt physical and verbal communication to the disabled individual's needs and condition(s). Many of our students need physical assistance so having some physical strength and flexibility is important.

**Experience:** Ideal candidate would have some experience working with people with disabilities, but this is not a requirement. Alpine skiing skills to high intermediate level are preferred but not necessary. Snowboard or Nordic skiing experience is a plus but Interns will spend most of their time teaching on alpine ski equipment. Interns will be coached to a higher performance level in their skiing to enhance their abilities as teachers of their sport.

**Equipment:** Candidate must provide appropriate and relatively modern alpine ski gear: Skis, boots, poles, helmet (required), and pants appropriate for working/skiing in winter conditions. Uniform alpine parka and fleece are provided by DSES.

**Grooming Standards:** We are in partnership with Mammoth Mountain Ski Area and they are providing us with lift tickets and other privileges, therefore we must conform to their grooming standards. Mammoth is in the family recreation business and families tell Mammoth that they feel more comfortable in resorts where the employees and volunteers maintain a neat, clean cut, and conservative appearance. Therefore men's hair must be cut above the collar. MMSA has now updated its policy on facial hair to the following:

**Neatly styled, evenly cut, well-groomed full beards, goatees and mustaches which are closely shaped to the face - no more than ¾ inch/19 mm long - are acceptable.**

Please note all volunteers must maintain a neat, clean and tidy appearance. No more than three earrings per ear can be worn and must be discreet. No facial piercings are allowed.

## **INTERN EXPERIENCE AREAS**

Interns will be introduced to varying aspects of the winter program including guest service/contact; volunteer contact/scheduling; daily lesson scheduling; fundraising event planning, implementation and management; introduction to program planning; active participation in training clinics: (discipline, disability and equipment specific); leading clinics if appropriate; teaching skiing and or other disciplines to disabled students; adaptive equipment maintenance and use; other miscellaneous office duties and projects.



## **CORE RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Instruct adaptive lessons and activities as needed.
- Attend Daily 8:30 training sessions when scheduled to work at DSES
- Help maintain all adaptive equipment in working order.
- Assist staff on a weekly basis in a comprehensive schedule of administrative tasks
- designed to give Intern a well-rounded overview of operating a non-profit service organization.
- Complete training for PSIA/AASI Level 1 Instructor Certification in one of the following disciplines: Adaptive, Alpine, Nordic or Snowboard.

## **BENEFITS**

- Complimentary skiing/riding at Mammoth and June Mountains.
- Qualifying Interns are eligible for accommodation provided at no charge by DSES thru MMSA Employee Housing.
- 50% discount on food while working.
- Top level training for PSIA/AASI Instructor certification exams.
- An incredibly rewarding experience helping those with disabilities to recreate.

## **WORKING CONDITIONS/TIME FRAME**

Time will be spent outdoors (90%) and indoors (10%). Percentage of time in and out will depend on individual intern requirements.

Intern must be able to work in a physically demanding environment in extreme weather conditions. Ability to lift 50 lbs minimum is required.

Internship runs from Jan 5 through April 30, 2017, (these dates can be customized to meet school requirements).

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Mark Spieler**

**Director of Outside Operations**

**[mspieler@disabledsportseasternsierra.org](mailto:mspieler@disabledsportseasternsierra.org)**

**Or call 760.934.0791 Mon – Fri between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm, PST.**