



POSITION TITLE: Winter Instructor 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 California.

Our goal is to have fun while sharing that fun with others. Our Internship Program for University Students is focused around the winter on-hill adaptive education of our 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!

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Education: Enrolled in a college or university program requiring a related and approved 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 population with disabilities. Strong communication skills are necessary as well as the ability to adapt physical and verbal communication to the 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 or riding 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 other mid-layer pieces 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.

Background Screen: To protect our students and our program, all volunteers must be screened for any offenses which would compromise student well being or safety. Intern screens are paid for by DSES.

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 two adaptive lessons per day and other 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 the 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 privileges at Mammoth and June Mountains
- Qualifying Interns are eligible for accommodation provided at no charge by DSES
- \$100/week stipend
- 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.

As our internships take a significant amount of training time, we usually only consider candidates who are able to provide a minimum of 300 hours of internship experience.

Interns 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 9, 2023 through April 30, 2023, (ending date can be customized to meet school requirements).

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY PLEASE CONTACT:

Mark Spieler

Ski School Director

MSpieler@DisabledSportsEasternSierra.org

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



**DISABLED
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EASTERN
SIERRA**

PO Box 7275
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

760.934.0791 | Fax 760.934.0729
www.DisabledSportsEasternSierra.org

Name _____ Soc. Sec. No. _____

Permanent Address _____

School Address _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone number _____

University _____ Length of Internship _____

Degree Objective: _____ Graduation date: _____

What volunteer or work experience do you have working with people with disabilities?

Please check the disabilities you have direct working or volunteer experience with.

_____ Developmental Disabilities _____ Spinal Cord Injuries _____ Visual Impairments

_____ Traumatic Brain Injuries _____ Hearing Impairments _____ Cerebral Palsy

_____ Spina Bifida _____ ADD / ADHD _____ Mental Health

What experience do you have for summer and/or winter recreation activities? (Please be specific)

What experience do you have in therapeutic recreation:

What is your main interest in applying for our internship program?

(Optional) Do you have a disability? YES NO If yes, what accommodations can we provide to assist you?



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Please comment on specific content area(s) or disabilities you would like experience with during your internship:

Please tell us about yourself:

Please tell us about the skills you can bring to our program:

Certifications: _____

Additional Comments: _____