



POSITION TITLE: Adaptive Snowsports Instructor Intern
PROGRAM: Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra
REPORTS TO: Internship Supervisor, Josh Pighetti

GENERAL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (DSES) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing adaptive sports programming and therapeutic recreation for individuals with disabilities. Our programs offer individuals of all ages with any disability the opportunity to enjoy outdoor recreation experiences in the beautiful Eastern Sierra. During the winter season, typically November through April, we provide lessons for alpine skiing and snowboarding at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area and cross-country skiing at Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center. Through the applications of modern adaptive equipment and specialized teaching methodologies, we strive to help anyone with any type of disability achieve their winter outdoor recreation goals.

INTERNSHIP OVERVIEW

The adaptive snowsports instructor internship is an integral component to DSES, supporting daily operations and teaching snowsports. Over the course of the winter season, interns develop skillsets that prepare them for roles as snowsports instructors for individuals with disabilities and as team members of a non-profit organization. At the beginning of the season, interns participate in a minimum of two weeks of training focused on personal skiing performance, snowsports instruction, and adaptive instruction. Intermixed with and following training are opportunities to shadow lessons and eventually transition into the role of secondary or assistant instructors. Through ongoing skills assessments and progress check-ins with the supervisor, interns eventually become primary instructors. Interns are introduced to various disciplines of adaptive snowsports including sit-skiing, 3-tracking, 4-tracking, and skiing with visual impairments, hearing impairments, or cognitive disabilities.

In addition to developing professionally as an adaptive snowsports instructor, interns gain skills associated with operating a non-profit organization. Interns are introduced to the daily operations of the organization and trained in various areas such as reserving and booking lessons, communicating with our volunteer base, planning special events, and fundraising. Interns who express interest in developing in any particular area related to non-profit organization operations may request to dedicate additional time to that area.



MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Education:

Enrolled in an accredited college or university program requiring a related and approved internship prior to graduation. The internship must require a minimum of 350 hours.

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 verbal and non-verbal communication to the individual's needs and condition(s). Many of our students need physical assistance so having 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 (parallel skiing on blue terrain) 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 instructors of their sport.

Certifications:

Current First Aid/CPR and/or Wilderness First Responder preferred but not necessary. Professional Ski Instructors of America & American Association of Snowboard Instructors (PSIA-AASI) certification appreciated but not necessary.

Grooming Standards:

We are in partnership with Mammoth Mountain Ski Area therefore we must conform to their established 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 background checks are paid for by the organization.

Equipment:

Candidate must provide appropriate and relatively modern alpine ski gear: Skis, ski 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.



INTERN CORE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Instruct two adaptive lessons per day and other on-snow 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 with administrative and operational tasks designed to give the intern a well-rounded overview of operating a non-profit service organization
- Complete training and certification for PSIA-AASI Level I Instructor Certification in at least one PSIA-AASI discipline.

BENEFITS

- Housing for the duration of the internship shared with fellow interns. Room assignments can be expected to be double occupancy.
- \$100/week stipend.
- Complimentary skiing/riding privileges at Mammoth Mountain and June Mountain.
- 50% discount on food at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area Main Lodge cafeteria while working.
- Top level training for professional development and PSIA-AASI instructor certification.
- An incredibly rewarding experience helping those with disabilities to recreate.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Interns must be able to work in a physically demanding environment in extreme weather conditions. This includes instructing in inclement weather, shoveling snow, and working during storms all while keeping personal safety as the utmost importance.

The ability to repeatedly lift 50 lbs. minimum is required.

TIME COMMITMENT

Time will be spent outdoors (80%) and indoors (20%). Percentage of time outside and inside may vary dependent on individual intern requirements and desired internship outcomes. As our internships take a significant amount of training time, we will only consider candidates who are able to provide a minimum of 350 hours of internship experience. Internship runs from January 8, 2024 through April 30, 2023. The end date can be customized to meet school requirements and as long as a minimum of 350 hours are satisfied.

For inquiries and application, please contact:

Josh Pighetti

Internship Supervisor

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