BCM Peer Leader Role Description

The Big City Mountaineers Peer Leader program is a learning opportunity for BCM alumni to develop leadership skills on summer backpacking or canoeing expeditions. Peer Leaders serve as leaders and role models to their fellow teens. This position is open to teens that have previously attended a weeklong expedition and received good feedback from other expedition participants.

Objectives

- To support BCM’s mission & program goals: To instill critical life skills
- To provide teens with expanded opportunities for growth that build on gains made during their previous participation in the BCM program.
- To provide opportunity for leadership and job-skill development.
- To develop a successive progression for the integration of BCM alumni into organizational roles, and leadership positions.

Overview

- A youth agency staff person or a BCM team member from their previous expeditions nominates Peer Leaders.
- Peer Leaders can fill one of the youth spots on the expedition, but can fill an adult slot if approved by the Regional Program Staff.
- Each expedition will have no more than 1 Peer Leader.

Qualifications

- Previous participation in a BCM expedition
- Excited and motivated by the opportunity
- 16 years of age or older by June 1st
- Meet the fitness guidelines to participate on a BCM expedition
- Medically approved to participate on a BCM expedition
- Available to attend all BCM pre- & post-expedition team meetings and programs.
- Able to attend training session

Application Process

- Peer Leader candidates must submit a Peer Leader Application
- Peer Leader candidates must submit a complete Youth Application

Please direct any Peer Leader questions to:
Regional BCM Program Staff
BCM Peer Leader Responsibilities

Peer Leaders are expected to show strong leadership qualities before, during, and after his/her expedition. A BCM Peer Leader is responsible for assisting in the delivery of a weeklong wilderness expedition through these leadership skills, including:

- **Be a Role Model**
  - Maintaining a positive attitude and motivating other youth during all pre- & post- events, and the expedition.
  - Setting a good example for the other participants by assisting and following the direction of the Instructor.

- **Help with Decision Making**
  - Participate in adult team meetings offering input on appropriate discussions and decision making.

- **Use good Communication**
  - Speak honestly and clearly.
  - Listen to others and provide support.
  - Answer questions about your experience during the pre-trip orientation and other opportunities.

- **Show Commitment**
  - Participate in all the pre- & post- expedition events with your team.

- **Show Initiative**
  - Show initiative to complete tasks and coach peers to complete tasks.
    - Assist the Youth Agency Leader with collecting completed application paperwork from the other youth before the expedition (as needed).
    - Assisting the Instructor/BCM Staff with gear issue on day 1 and 2 of the expedition.
    - Choose and initiate one group task every day of the expedition. Examples of tasks are: tent set-up, packing up group gear, leading a discussion, etc.
    - Assisting the Instructor with gear de-issue on the last day of the trip.

- **Help with Curriculum**
  - Explain and guide two activities or games on the expedition with the entire group. Some examples of activities are: Quote of the Day or a name game. See the BCM Handbook for many activity options.

- **Be Self Awareness**
  - Be aware of your personal strengths and areas to work on.
  - Be open to feedback from adult mentors.
  - Fill out a post expedition self evaluation form.
# Peer Leader Application

## CONTACT INFORMATION –

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## BCM EXPERIENCE –

How many BCM expeditions have you been on? When was your last expedition? ____________________________

What did you learn from participating in the BCM program?

Why are you interested in going on another BCM expedition as a Peer Leader?

Describe a strength you can bring to the team as a leader? (Look at the Peer Leader Responsibilities)

What is one leadership skill you would like to work on? (Look at the Peer Leader Responsibilities)

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Signature                        Date