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BRECKENRIDGE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER WINTER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

What is the BOEC?

Located in Breckenridge, Colorado, the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center (BOEC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to expand the potential of people with disabilities through meaningful, educational, and inspiring outdoor experiences. The BOEC began back in 1976 with a staff that consisted of volunteers only, gear that came from their closets, and food that was donated or provided by the clients. The BOEC has come a long way since then. The BOEC offers Adaptive Skiing and Snowboarding, Wilderness Courses (on-site as well as mobile courses) and a unique Internship Program. Situated on 39 acres, the BOEC Wilderness Site boasts a climbing wall, a high ropes course, high and low team initiatives, rafts, canoes, sea kayaks, cabins, a teepee, and much more, as resources for experiential education.

Extraordinary things happen here at the BOEC. A man with quadriplegia finds the courage and patience to take on the high ropes course, a woman who is blind feels the thrill of carving down some fresh powder, a group of teenage boys learn what it means to work hard as they set fence ties on a desert farm in Utah - these are mere glimpses of what happens at the BOEC. For more than 30 years, the BOEC has been changing lives, or more accurately, showing people that they have the power within themselves to change their own lives.

Becoming a BOEC Intern:

The BOEC's Internship Program is designed to provide opportunities for individuals interested in Outdoor/ Experiential Education, Therapeutic Recreation, and Recreation Management to gain professional experience and knowledge in this growing field. Interns get hands on experience in all aspects of programming and have the opportunity to expand their soft (people) as well as hard (technical) skills. The winter internship dates are November 1st through April 30th.

Winter interns make a six-month commitment, from early November to late April, working primarily for the Adaptive Ski Program based at Peak 9 at the Breckenridge Ski Resort. After an intense month long training, the interns become an integral part of the ski office, first as assistant instructors, and quickly advancing to primary instructors for people with various disabilities. This internship, although incredibly rewarding and educational, is physically and mentally demanding. Interns may spend their day helping students get on and off the lift, as well as introducing them to adaptive skiing or helping them improve their current skills.

During the winter, interns also facilitate wilderness courses with various groups. These courses require interns to be involved in preplanning, such as course design and food shopping, as well as group facilitation, team building exercises, and participation on the BOEC ropes course or high and low elements. When on course, interns and other staff remain with participants twenty-four hours a day.

Although the winter internship requires a long commitment and hard work outdoors during the cold months in Breckenridge, many former interns have used this experience to further their careers in experiential/outdoor education and adaptive skiing/snowboarding.

Compensation:

- Room and Board
- Three-mountain season ski pass (Breckenridge, A-Basin, Keystone)
- Skier improvement clinics
- Adaptive instructor training
- Opportunity to become certified with Professional Ski Instructors of America
- 25 Punch pass to the Breckenridge Recreation Center
- Pro-deals (wholesale outdoor gear)

Eligibility and Requirements:

All interns must be at least twenty-one years of age, have current First Aid and CPR certification, health insurance coverage for the length of the internship, and the ability to commit to an entire season. Above all, the BOEC is looking to create an intern staff that is self-motivated, takes initiative, and has some experience working with people with disabilities and special needs. All interns must have a strong sense of hard work, flexibility, a love of the outdoors, an open mind, and a love for working with people.

Application Procedure:

Additional information and applications can be found on our website at www.boec.org/internships.

Or Contact:

Kathleen Booth, CTRS

Internship Program Coordinator

Phone: 970-453-0146

Email: internship@boec.org