



Outdoor Educators Institute

Professional Development Opportunity for Young Adults

Are you an 18-24 year-old Bay Area resident who would like to strengthen your leadership and youth development skills, but can't find the trainings you want...for FREE? Interested in connecting people to the natural world, but don't have the skills? Do you want to bring the outdoors as a tool for growth, learning and FUN to your community? **The Outdoor Educators Institute can provide you the training, skills, and experience necessary to become an outdoor leader and advocate for your community.**

What is the Outdoor Educators Institute (OEI)?

OEI is a 3-month long professional and workforce development program offered in the fall of 2017, starting on August 12th. OEI trainees will learn and practice a variety of outdoor skills necessary to becoming a culturally relevant outdoor leader. OEI components include leadership training in wilderness backpacking, sea kayaking, outdoor facilitation, environmental education, group management, conservation skills, and equity, diversity, and inclusion trainings. OEI will support participants to develop their skill set, become culturally relevant outdoor leaders, provide opportunities for outdoor employment and volunteering, and support in building outdoor programming for their communities.

Overview of primary training components

Wilderness Expedition:

3-day overnight wilderness backpacking expedition including: expedition planning, backcountry camping, navigation skills, and leadership development

Outdoor Water Skills:

Weekend sea kayaking expedition including: kayaking skills, group management on the water, and a swimming lesson / refresher class

Environmental Education:

Teaching natural history (plants, animals, earth systems, environmental science) to youth of all ages, as well as history and social justice challenges and initiatives of local organizations

Conservation Skills:

Trail maintenance, safe tool use, and conservation and stewardship philosophy

Cultural Relevancy, Equity & Inclusion Trainings:

Workshops, discussions and readings regarding power, privilege, and allyship



Structure & Logistics

OEI is a three month long professional and workforce development program that supports entry level youth development workers in gaining experience in the outdoors, strengthening facilitation skills, and thinking critically about inequities in access within their communities.

Accepted cohort participants will meet in the evening, once a week over the course of three months. Additionally, there will be a minimum 3 weekends a month commitment to acquire outdoor experiences and develop a sense of comfort and belonging in the outdoors. Some training components will result in a certificate of proficiency / accomplishment.

Upon successful completion of OEI, participants will be well versed in outdoor leadership skills, opportunities for engagement in the outdoors, and supported in developing outdoor programming for youth development and community agencies.

Beyond the OEI training program

Outdoor Program Creation & Support:

Participants and their community partner agencies will be given access to resources to create, implement, and strengthen outdoor programming. Resources include mentorship from industry professionals, discounted and free activities from delivery partners, and information and opportunities to apply for outdoor program funding.

Access to Outdoor Expedition Partners:

Participants will be better situated to connect their communities to the outdoors utilizing industry leaders and best practices through networking and relationship building with local and national outdoor programs.

Employment, Internships and Volunteer Opportunities:

Accepted participants will be connected to local and national outdoor non-profits and encouraged to continue to grow professionally, by participating as a volunteer, intern, or employee for an outdoor organization.

Applying for OEI

Qualifications: 18 – 24 years old, Bay Area resident with demonstrated need for financial assistance to pursue skills for a career in youth development and/or the outdoors. Applicants from diverse ethnic/racial backgrounds, women and members of the LGBTQ community are strongly encouraged to apply.

Requirements: Commitment to attend and complete this 3-month program is mandatory, including evening workshops and weekend trainings; a strong desire to bring outdoor programs to under-represented communities; *previous experience in the outdoors preferred but not required, preferably as a participant in an urban-based outdoor program.

To Apply: Please send a letter of interest to the Program Manager at rena@youthoutside.org and an application will be provided.

Space is limited to 20 participants per cycle, so please note the application deadlines below.

Priority Deadline: Monday, May 1, 2017. OEI staff will review all applications submitted by this date and qualified candidates will be contacted for an interview. Initial selection will be notified Wednesday, May 31, 2017.

Final application deadline: July 7, 2017.

Final participant selection will be announced July 21, 2017.

The Outdoor Educators Institute is a program of Youth Outside