MONTANA WILDERNESS SCHOOL

POSITION: Assistant Backpacking and Mountaineering Instructor (AMI)

REPORTS TO: Program Director and Expedition Wrangler

POSITION OVERVIEW: Individuals interested in joining the MWS field staff. Should possess experience leading multi-day wilderness-based courses. MWS seeks field staff that are experienced in outdoor education, committed to conservation, and that possess high quality, individual and group facilitation skills. Ideal candidates for MWS field staff have comprehensive personal and/or institutional climbing, mountaineering and backpacking experience.

Instructors will be contracted to instruct <u>at least</u> 2 of the 4 backpacking and mountaineering expeditions:
-21-day backpacking and mountaineering expedition: June 18 –July 8, 2018
-11-day backpacking and mountaineering expedition: July 14–24, 2018
-15-day backpacking and mountaineering expedition: July 29 – August 12, 2018
-10-day backpacking expedition: August 4 – 13th, 2018

In addition, each expedition will have 2 paid preparation days and a potential additional half-day debrief, depending on expedition schedule, in addition to 12 days of paid staff training compensated at $50/day.

MWS does not have a basecamp or provide housing. Staff will need to provide their own lodging when not preparing to work in the field.

<u>JOB OBJECTIVE:</u>
Lead inexperienced 14-18 year old students on backpacking and paddling expeditions in wilderness settings for extended periods of time while managing risks and evaluating student performance.
Assist in the facilitation of classes and activities to achieve the curricular goals of MWS expeditions and make decisions in the field that reflect MWS' programmatic goals.

<u>RESPONSIBILITIES:</u> The assistant instructor will:
- Support the lead instructor to comprehensively and effectively evaluate and manage risk on the expedition.
- Follow MWS emergency procedures in the event of an injury, illness or emergency while on an expedition.
- Follow all MWS field guidelines and procedures.
- Participate and assist in course start equipment and food packing for staff and students as well as the course end equipment de-issue and cleaning process.
- Maintain a supportive and productive learning environment for MWS students.
- Oversee and manage all MWS equipment while in the field, ensuring it is well taken care of.
- Maintain/develop a positive professional relationship with co-instructor.
- Communicate openly at all times with the Program Director and Expedition Wrangler about expedition needs, potential logistical issues, and overall status of field operations throughout the season.
- Support student goal identification and development though regular discussions with students.
- Track and record student performance while in the field, communicate with student about their growth.
- Occasionally help with driving to and from expedition locations utilizing a 12-passenger van.

<u>Other:</u>
- Help maintain a clean and organized MWS base.
- Assist with field equipment organization and maintenance while at the MWS base.
- Other duties as assigned by Operations Manager, Expedition Wrangler or Program Director.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 21 years of age or older preferred.
- Wilderness First Responder (minimum 72 hour course) and CPR certifications required.
- Valid drivers license.
- Acceptable driving record and an acceptable criminal history, as verified through pre-hire driving record and criminal background checks.
- Willingness to learn about the mission and values of MWS.
- One or more seasons (50+ Field Days total) of experience leading groups of students in the backcountry.
- Ability to carry a 45-70 lb. backpack in rugged terrain for up to 10+ hours a day.
- Ability to support and facilitate curricular and programmatic goals.
- Ability to lead inexperienced students in wilderness settings for extended periods of time while managing risks and evaluating student performance.
- Promote a commitment to the conservation of wild places and personal dedication exploring and enjoying the wilderness.
- Excellent physical condition; instructors are required to have the fitness level and endurance to safely and effectively lead students while traveling through difficult terrain in challenging weather.
- Competency with backpacking and camp craft skills.

Educational and Leadership Skills

- Experience working with or instructing high school youth
- Experience teaching technical skills
- Experience working effectively with people from diverse backgrounds
- Ability to organize and effectively teach lessons
- Ability to motivate others to accomplish goals
- Ability to provide and receive constructive feedback
- Strong verbal communication skills

Risk Management Skills

- The ability to assess, manage and respond to risks
- An understanding of the social, psychological, and physical challenges of a student group traveling in the wilderness
- The ability to teach students about risk and provide them with tools on how to mitigate and balance risks in the wilderness setting

Technical Skills

MWS is seeking instructors that have extensive outdoor technical skills. Field staff must enjoy and be comfortable in remote outdoor settings for extended periods of time. Instructional staff should possess strong backcountry cooking, camping and backpacking skills and be able to document and/or demonstrate the technical skills listed below.

Minimum skills for a Assistant Mountaineering instructor:

- Climbing experience in sport and or top rope climbing
- Experience with 4th and 5th class peak accents
- Able to competently lead 5.6 traditional climbing routes
- Knowledge of institutional top rope anchor systems in the backcountry using traditional gear
- Experience on snow with ice axes
- Ability to belay and rappel without guidance

OTHER REQUIREMENTS: A criminal background check is required from all MWS employees

CONTRACT TERMS & DURATION: This is a seasonal contracted position for at least 2 expeditions, starting May 21, 2018 and lasting through August 19th 2018.

COMPENSATION: This is a seasonal contracted position, paid bi-weekly throughout the season; Assistant Instructor pay $100/day paid bi-weekly throughout the season; Must participate in required staff training in May, compensated at $50/day.

WORK LOCATION: This position is based out of the Montana Wilderness School's office in Bozeman, MT.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: The position will remain open until filled

HOW TO APPLY:
1/Send cover letter and resume to**: instructorjobs@montanawildernessschool.org**; Feel free to email us at that address or call if you have any questions (406. 522.1525).
2/Respond to the following questions (Please type your responses and submit them with your cover letter and resume. Please save the file with your full name in the title. For Example: "Sarah Smith MWS Lead Instructor Application")
1. Describe, in 1-2 paragraphs, what you enjoy about working with students in outdoor education? What are your greatest assets as an educator?
2. Describe, in 1-2 paragraphs, your personal conservation ethic. What inspires you about spending time in the outdoors?
3. Technical Skills/Experience: Describe your climbing, mountaineering and backpacking skills. Please include a list of 5-10 routes you have climbed. Please make sure to clearly articulate your role (follower, leader, guide) on these trips.
4. Risk Management and Judgment: Please briefly provide an example/story of your experience with hazard evaluation and risk management. Please include a comprehensive analysis of your example in order to help us understand what you learned from these events and your overall approach and philosophy regarding risk management.
5. Montana Specific: Describe any connection you may have to Montana in the past or present. Please include any knowledge of wildlife or conservation issue, local history, natural history, and any personal trips or work you have had specifically in Montana.