**Blue Sky Fund**

**Outdoor Leadership Institute (OLI) Volunteer Position Description**

**OLI Volunteer**

**Adventure Program**

**Program Goal:** Strengthen leadership and teamwork skills by confronting the challenges of the wilderness as a team of knowledgeable, multicultural leaders who will then translate that experience to meet the social needs of Richmond through service learning.

**Introduction:** We are excited to include you in our mission to provide transformational experiences for urban youth through outdoor education. Our OLI program runs for two weeks during the summer as new crews of high school students (both boys and girls) come together from all over the city of Richmond to learn about and practice leadership, community and service. The summer portion of the program culminates in a 5-day backpacking trip to Mt. Rogers- the highest peak in Virginia! The crews will then continue to meet one Saturday a month for the rest of the school year to engage in service projects tailored to what they are passionate about. We need your support and enthusiasm to make our programs the best they can be!

**Orientation and Training:** The Volunteer Coordinator will hold volunteer orientation and training twice a year (at the beginning of each semester), or on an individual basis as needed.

**Expectations:**

* Know and understand the plan for the day by having communicated with the staff prior to programming.
* Support the staff by being attentive and enthusiastic about all activities.
* Support the staff by managing group dynamics.
* Build relationships with students.
* Dress appropriately for both the weather and the activity.
* Limit use of cell phones and other electronics at programming as they can be distracting to students.
* If you are able, remain after programming to assist staff in cleaning up and debriefing the program.

**Qualifications:**

* Ability to take direction and partner with the staff to complete assignments
* Ability to respond calmly and positively to the needs and requests of others
* Participate as a team member and complete assignments independently, as appropriate
* Excellent oral communication skills

**Work Schedule:** OLI service projects take place one Saturday a month from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

**Time commitment:** Volunteers are expected to be present for the duration of programming during the summer and for each Saturday meeting of the OLI program. This level of consistency serves our students, staff and the volunteer to best be able to build relationships. The position assignment is for one school year.

**Supervision and Support Plan:** The supervisor for this volunteer position is the Adventure Program Manager, Ryan Hamlet, who can be reached at ryan@blueskyfund.org or (804) 495-1413. The volunteer will also be connected with day-specific staff determined by the staff schedule. The volunteer is welcome to provide constructive feedback to the supervisor on an ongoing basis at mutually agreed upon times.

**Volunteer Benefits:**

* Opportunity to learn new skills in outdoor education
* References for employment or academic purposes, dependent on satisfactory performance
* Opportunity to network with other people and organizations in the Richmond outdoors and nonprofit communities
* Opportunity to contribute toward the mission of Blue Sky Fund

**Start and End Dates:** Two weeks of the summer as well as one Saturday a month from September to June (the school year)

Sarah Jane DeHart

Volunteer Coordinator

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