



INTERNSHIP

CAMP TRIP LEADER and ROCK CLIMBING INSTRUCTOR

Acadia Mountain Guides Climbing School offers aspiring climbing guides and instructors a Climbing Instructor and Trip Leader Internship. Interns assist in providing climbing instruction to groups, families and individuals in Acadia National Park and throughout Maine. Interns will also be expected to lead several coed, week-long rock climbing and adventure trips in Maine and NH for teens. We seek highly motivated expert climbers who are passionate about rock climbing and trip leading and who are attentive to detail, thirsty for knowledge and willing to a full schedule. In return, you will take home many new skills and experiences.

The primary purpose of this position is to lead summer youth camp programs and provide support logistics. Our camp trips focus primarily on rock climbing but also include group living, wilderness skills, cooperation, independence, and fun. Programs range from day camps for 6 – 8 year olds to overnight lead climbing camps for older teenagers. As a camp leader you will have 24/7 responsibilities while in the field. In this position you will be making real decisions with real consequences and expected to develop appropriate itineraries and curriculum material as well as manage course logistics such as menu planning, equipment and camp preparation.

Periodically during the summer you will have opportunity to assist the guide staff with instructional days. The typical instructional day begins around 7:30 am with a morning guides meeting to set the stage for the day. Clients arrive usually between 8 – 9:00 am for most local guiding. During the summer a large percentage of the guiding in Acadia is comprised of half day entry level sessions for families, couples and groups. These require a high level of organization and efficiency to get a reasonable amount climbing in. Morning sessions run until noon with a 30 – 60 minute break before meeting afternoon clients. After returning from the afternoon session, guides are expected put gear away, complete equipment logs and to complete all course or client related administration such as confirming payment, verifying client data, and reviewing evaluations. The day usually ends around 5:30 pm.

Interns are expected to arrive in early June for three-four solid weeks of training and to work through August 20th with possible paid extensions into October.

Location / Availability: This position spends a portion of time in Bar Harbor, ME , in Orono, ME and in the field.

Instructional Related Expectations (75%)

- Assist in selecting climbs and managing large and small groups of clients in busy top rope settings
- Lead 3 - 5 weeks of youth climbing camp programs
- Respect and enjoy the mountain environment
- Enjoy people and teaching climbing sports
- Demonstrate high level of professional competence and ability to instruct technical skills such as belaying, anchoring, partner rescue in efficient and effective manner
- Aware of strengths and weaknesses
- Demonstrate sound judgment and decision-making skills
- Tolerance and patience for adversity, diversity and uncertainty
- Punctual and reliable
- Able to give and receive constructive feedback, sense of humor
- Maintain high regard for client safety and client experience
- Learn client expectations and strive to meet them
- Develop appropriate curriculum for each client based on skills and ability
- Relate local knowledge including natural and cultural history
- Demonstrate and promote minimum impact practices and environmental awareness
- Provide leadership, instruction and medical care during an emergency
- Inspect and maintain equipment

Guide Administrative and Logistics Expectations (25%)

- Review and file related client paperwork
- Process reservations, prepare and edit written course materials

- Plan curriculum and itineraries
- Plan and organize transportation, equipment and food logistics for trips
- Assist in climbing school operation, marketing, and sales
- Contact potential clients and sources of potential clients.

Preferred Technical Qualifications

- Age 21 or older with significant personal skills in rock climbing, backcountry travel / camping and other outdoor pursuits, expertise in teaching rock climbing, outdoor skills, and environmental consciousness; strong interpersonal / leadership skills with teens and pre-teens; excellent driving record; excellent physical condition; proven judgment and decision-making; and a desire to serve as a positive role model to participants.
- Climbing resume showing a minimum 2 years climbing experience with 30 days outdoor climbing per year.
- Demonstrated ability to currently and safely lead routes up to grade II, 5.8.
- PCIA or AMGA Single Pitch Instructor Certification. (may be completed at start of season)
- Wilderness First Responder and CPR certification
- Demonstrated ability in the following: managing top rope sites safely and efficiently, teaching and leadership, climbing equipment, natural history, environmental consciousness, judgment and decision-making, improvised rescue, general outdoor skills.
- Requires excellent people skills, solid organizational skills and a strong knowledge of outdoor activities and outdoor equipment.
- Preference will be given to candidates seeking future seasons of employment and who are pursuing further guide education and certification.

Benefits

Stipend is commensurate with education and experience with a range of 150.00 – 200.00 / week including the training period. Access to professional courses (climbing/ mountaineering, Maine Trip Leader, WMA wilderness medicine, PCIA and AMGA training) is available at discounted rates. Housing assistance options. Pro-purchase access and worker's compensation insurance provided. One of best aspects of working at AMG is the community of friends and climbing partners you will join.

To apply

Complete our application (available at acadiamountainguides.com) and return electronically with a letter of interest and resume to Jon Tierney (climb@acadiamountainguides.com) or via mail to AMGCS, PO Box 121, Orono, ME 04473. 207-866-7562. After receiving your application, we will evaluate it and, if you are among the qualified candidates, we will arrange an in-person or phone interview. We prefer in-person interviews and can often meet at organizational meetings or major climbing areas. EEOE.

About Acadia Mountain Guides, Inc.

AMG was founded in 1993 and is owned by Jon Tierney. AMG operates a year round program of courses and guiding that extends from the sea side cliffs of Acadia to distant summits in South America and Asia. The school is AMGA and PCIA accredited and all guide staff have participated in either PCIA or AMGA training and certification. Jon is an IMFGA guide who has served on the AMGA Board of Directors and the AMGA Technical Committee and was formerly an AMGA Instructor/Examiner. Jon is the current Educational Director of the Professional Climbing Instructor's Association and was the original designer and catalyst behind of the AMGA Top Rope Site Manager (Single Pitch) program from 1997-2004.

During the summer, AMG operates primarily out of Bar Harbor, ME – home to Acadia National Park and the summer camps operate out of Orono, ME. Bar Harbor is a busy resort town similar to North Conway, Estes Park, or Jackson Hole. The climbing is predominantly granite and Acadia is known for single pitch sea cliff climbing right over Frenchman's Bay. The 250' South Wall of Champlain Mountain features great lines on superb granite and is ideal terrain for introducing clients to multi-pitch climbing. Forty minutes inland are the Clifton Crags with steep sport climbing on granite (close to Orono). Alpine rock climbing on Katahdin is about 2.5 hours away. Excellent bouldering opportunities abound in Acadia and Clifton.