

**Position:**

Immediate Supervisor:

Location:

Status:

Start date:

Portage Coordinator and OBC Instructor

Ontario Program Director

Primary locations:

- Portage Elora, Ont. Treatment Centre
- OBC Ontario North Wilderness – Almaguin Ont.

Full time

August 2017

Since 1969, Outward Bound Canada has made it our mission to cultivate resilience, leadership, connections and compassion, through inspiring and challenging journeys of self-discovery in the natural world. A not-for-profit, charitable, educational organization, Outward Bound Canada has challenged over 150,000 Canadians to step out of their comfort zone with our unique outdoor adventures. We pride ourselves on offering transformational journeys that encourage participants to push beyond their limits and discover their true potential.

ABOUT THE POSITION

Portage is a strength-based treatment program for youth, they have integrated Outward Bound Programming into their treatment approach.

The “Embedded Outward Bound Instructor” will then, six or more times a year, be the Lead Instructor for 7-day Asset Building Adventure Program in Algonquin Park. One aspect of the position will be delivering Outward Bound style activities to the residents (boys and girls aged 14-19) in harmony with their existing therapeutic program. This will include hiking, canoeing and/or dog sledding expeditions. In addition, the instructor will help to design and create a range of local front-country expeditions and day-trip programs or activities that can take place in locations near the Portage facility in and around Elora.

This successful candidate will be employed $\frac{3}{4}$ time as the Portage Coordinator and OBC instructor and $\frac{1}{4}$ time will be attending OBC trainings, delivering 1-2 OBC expeditions, and supporting the Ontario leadership, as means of continued training and professional mentorship.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**PORTAGE FACILITY**

- Actively promote appropriate information sharing and communication between Portage staff, teachers and the parents or guardians of the youth residing at Portage.
- Assist with student expedition presentations including expectations.
- Help to assess and screen students for the expeditions and help stream them to one of two program experiences (training will be provided).
- Attend and participate in Portage case conferences.
- Work with the clinical coordinator to set up specific groups to:
 - Facilitate positive peer interaction
 - Trust building with their specific peer group



- Offer workshop style teachings on skill development in preparation for expedition
- Specific skill development such as canoeing, outdoor cooking, tents and shelter building, water safety, etc.
- Develop one day excursions such as hiking, canoeing, swimming, winter activities, in order to motivate engagement in one of the 7 day programs.
- Work closely with caseload staff to understand each resident's strengths and needs.
- Be active and participate on the "Floor" so as to be seen as part of the Portage staff team with a specific skill set.
- Design activities, initiatives and field trips based on themes emerging in the groups
- Work in cooperation with the Program Director to capture created curriculum and to help integrate Outward Bound materials in harmony with the Portage philosophy and program objectives.

EXPEDITION LEADERSHIP

Safety:

- Ability to maintain a high level of safety awareness
- Ability to carry out emergency response as required
- Ability to continuously assess abilities of students
- Be familiar with instructor handbook and OBC policies
- Ability to maintain consistent energy level through program

Course Components:

- Ability to teach canoe tripping, and/or backpacking, wilderness travel and camp craft skills with emphasis on minimum impact techniques and LNT principles
- Be comfortable supporting courses on high and ropes elements
 - Ropes (High and Low)

EDUCATION AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT

Leadership and Teaching:

- Ability to engage students in learning
- Ability to present clear and effective lessons
- Ability to use progression and capture "teachable moments"
- Ability to utilize different methods and styles of teaching
- Ability to model effective and appropriate leadership style(s)
- Role model behavior in line with the values of OBC
- Ability to work effectively with different populations
- Ability to manage challenging behaviours and group issues
- Comfort in working with youth with difficult life stories

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE DESIRED

- Commitment to the growth and development of others on an individual, group and societal level, compassion for people and for the health of the environment.
- Understanding and application of Outward Bound Canada methods and philosophy.
- Proficient in behaviour management, crisis intervention and problem solving.



OUTWARD BOUND CANADA

- Experience on extended wilderness tripping program delivery in a leadership role.
- Ability to be a significant contributor to several small teams and also work independently with moderate supervision.
- Experience in maintaining a positive staff team and environment.
- Well practiced in communicating effectively with a high level of professionalism.
- Flexible and comfortable in a changeable environment and with a transient population.
- Technical and interpersonal excellence.
- Ability to establish effective rapport with staff and students.
- Ability to instruct canoe tripping, backpacking, snowshoeing, wilderness travel and camp-craft skills and assess associated risks.
- Comfortable working with youth with challenging and varied histories.

CERTIFICATIONS

F-C lass (or equivalent) Driver's License

Wilderness First Responder

Bronze Cross or NLS

CPR-C

Post-Secondary education in outdoor education, adventure therapy, or relevant field of study (asset)

Whitewater Rescue Technician (asset)

Moving Water Paddling Certification (asset)

Position requires police background check including Vulnerable Sector Check

Salary & Benefits

- Starting Salary \$37000 - \$43000 + Benefits, contingent upon experience and recognition of prior learning
- Enrolment in the Outward Bound Canada medical and dental benefit program after the 3 month probation period.

READY TO APPLY?

- I. Fill out this webform:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form!EQBCT=8ef15d78cef64aa9a100ec4a6eb5eba>

Please identify the position as “**Portage Coordinator and OBC Instructor**” when you apply.

Application deadline: Open until filled

Outward Bound Canada is an equal opportunity employer. We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls please.