River Program Volunteer Description

Environmental Traveling Companions

Description of Organization

ETC is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization that provides outdoor adventure and environmental education experiences for people of all abilities. ETC conducts Sea Kayak, Whitewater Rafting, and Cross-Country Skiing trips for youth and adults from under-resourced backgrounds and people with disabilities as well as extended Youth Leadership Programs for youths from underserved communities.

Position Description

Our volunteer guides are dedicated and caring professionals who are also highly skilled in providing leadership on one to three day whitewater rafting trips on the South Fork of the American River for people who would otherwise not get the chance to experience the beauty and challenge of the outdoors.

Key responsibilities

- Seek to provide meaningful outdoor experiences for ETC participants
- Work within a team of guides to ensure trips are operated in a safe manner
- Assistant Guide in a raft with a checked-out Guide or Guide your own raft (following successful completion of the check-out process)
- Assist with all portions of day of trip logistics including equipment set-up, meal preparation, and trip closing
- Facilitate activities focusing on group development, raft instruction, environmental education, and human and natural history

Qualifications

- No experience is necessary-only the motivation and willingness to challenge yourself and have fun
- Enthusiasm for sharing the outdoors with people of all abilities and backgrounds
- Experience with environmental education or leading outdoor trips preferred but not required
- Experience working with youth or special needs programs preferred but not required
- Current CPR and First Aid Certifications are required (WFA or WFR are preferred)

Required Training

- Guide School: April 8 -11 & 16-18, 2027
- Swift Water Rescue Training and Certification: May 13-14, 2027
- Inclusion Training: May 15-16, 2027

Term & Commitment

- River Guide School, Inclusion Training, River Rescue Certification
- 8 volunteer days during first year
- 8 volunteer days during second year
- River season generally runs May through early November

Training Cost

$750 covers all instruction, food, and overnight lodging (some sliding-scale scholarships available)

Criminal Background Check: Employment with ETC is contingent upon a criminal background check

Application Closing Date: March 15, 2027

How to apply

Submit application available with this link (resume optional) or email Jerry Lam, River Program Manager, at riverprogram@etctrips.org by March 15, 2027.