

**SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

Position Title: Therapeutic Recreational Wilderness Guide
Reports To: CR Operations Assistant Manager
Department: Crossings
Location: Wrangell

Revised Date: 01/05/2018
Grade: 4
PTO Tier: non-benefitted
FLSA Status: Non-exempt

POSITION SUMMARY

Alaska Crossings is a non-profit behavioral health program that operates as part of the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC). Our expeditions are approximately 64 days in length and operate April through December in the Tongass National Forest around Wrangell and the surrounding areas. Alaska Crossings clients are 12-18 year-old Alaskan youth, they have a vast array of behavioral health issues, and come from a variety of cultural and socio economic backgrounds throughout the state of Alaska. We use the remote Alaska Wilderness and our expeditions as a continuum in a therapeutic behavioral health service context to elicit positive change in our clients.

ACCOUNTABILITIES

Responsibilities include all things inherent in mentoring youth and providing them with a safe and enjoyable experience in a challenging and remote wilderness setting. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The ability to understand the role of a mentor and be comfortable mentoring our clients
- Participate in all aspects of the Alaska Crossings program. This includes: attending all required staff training events and/or workshops, pre-trip planning and meetings, food preparation, potential travel-escorting duties with clients, equipment preparation and maintenance, program implementation, delivery of curriculum, report writing and all post program wrap-up duties.
- The Therapeutic Recreational Wilderness Guides (TRWGs) must participate and contribute in all team activities and meetings. This will ensure program continuity and the overall safety of other TRWGs and program clients under our care.
- Be responsible for the delivery of all skills instruction.
- Provide required daily documentation on 2 to 5 clients: TRWGs will develop strategies to work with the clients, and implement the treatment plans as outlined by the clinician. They must complete all required documentation.
- Be proficient at leading and motivating groups on extended expeditions in challenging environments
- Communicate clear, objective information with efficiency and attention to detail – both orally and in writing
- Possess the characteristics of maturity, honesty, accountability, and flexibility
- Able to work as a contributing member of a team with management and co-recreational therapists
- Adhere to the program values and implement the program mission
- Work within organizational policies and parameters
- Inform their Expedition Coordinator (EC) of any concerns regarding their ability to safely and competently execute these duties.

SCOPE OF IMPACT

TRWGs must be proficient in a variety of hard skills and have experience working with youth-at-risk. They must have a high level of awareness for client needs and have the ability to instruct and mentor children with varying learning abilities as well as varying behavioral health issues. There is no time off during expeditions so staff must be comfortable in and prepared to be in the wilderness for extended periods of time. TRWGs work 16 hours days when with clients; on shifts that are 30-55 days in length with the majority of those days in a continuous wilderness setting. In addition to "field days" TRWGs work an additional 4-5 8 hour days without clients per shift in town on administrative tasks, maintenance tasks, and preparation and debrief for/from their shift. Alaska Crossings works with a staff: client ratio of 1:3 and group size is generally 3 staff to 9 clients. They are a behavioral health rehabilitative service provider. Alaska Crossings asks that TRWGs can sign up for at least 2 shifts, preferably 3-4 over the course of the season with preference for shifts given to returning staff. A final shift schedule will not be produced until completion and evaluation of the Alaska Crossings annual staff training.

POSITION QUALIFICATIONS

Expedition components include a majority of ocean/flat water canoeing, one to two 7-day expeditions of off trail hiking, and possibly river canoeing on the Stikine River. TRWGs must have experience in these activities and have the necessary personal equipment and gear. We work in remote rugged environments that are equipment intensive. Guidance in the procurement of proper gear may be provided upon acceptance of an invitation to the Alaska Crossings Annual Staff Training. More specific job qualifications and requirements differ for each of the five TRWG levels, and may be available upon request. General qualifications and requirements for all new TRWGs are as follows:

Education:

- Proof of a Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience

Experience:

- Experience working with youth – experience with youth-at-risk preferred
- Current Wilderness First Responder can CPR Certification – current WEMT preferred
- Flat water paddling experience – certification and 2+ years experience preferred
- Moving water paddle experience- certification and 2+ years experience preferred
- Multi-day backcountry tripping experience – 2+ years experience preferred
- Formal communication and reporting experience – experience in behavioral health, non-profit, and/or educational institution setting preferred
- Clear a federal and state background check
- Current passport
- Ability to travel into Canada
- Must be at least 21 years of age