



## Realistic Job Preview

### La Vida Expedition Base Camp Staff

#### Purpose and Role of Program

The La Vida Adirondack Expedition program is a ministry of the La Vida Center for Outdoor Education and Leadership. During 8-12-day wilderness trips, participants grow through facing individual and team-focused challenges within the context of Gospel-centered practices and discussions.



#### Specific Tasks

Tasks include but are not limited to the following: belaying at the high rope course and rock climb, hiking 1-3 miles of steep terrain, landscaping, food packing, meal prep and clean-up, hosting visitors, facilitating activities for on-site groups, evacuations, managing gear rentals, driving a van of students, facilitating celebration and worship times, and joining staff events



#### Orientation (Summer Staff)

Your level of participation in training depends on the programmatic needs of La Vida, but in general, most staff attend all trainings. Training consists of canoe and mountain travel, rock climbing and high ropes course belay training, equipment care and standards, spiritual lesson preparation, La Vida curriculum, and trip planning and execution. Other activities may include a 4-day of medical training resulting in a certification through Wilderness Medical Associates and a one-week training trip with trip leaders to practice teaching and wilderness travel skills.



#### Nuts and Bolts of the Job

All local staff will attend specific training evenings during the spring. The first three weeks of Summer Staff employment is staff training. The hours are typically 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (not including meal prep/clean-up). August Base Camp Staff will learn on-the-job through observation and guidance from experienced staff.

During the remainder of your employment your primary responsibility will be supporting the success of the expeditions through the tasks listed above (3 cycles total for summer staff, 1 for August staff). You may be asked to lead an expedition if necessary.



## Emotional Engagement

The relationships between La Vida Adirondack staff is that of an intentional and committed community, where each has opportunity and responsibility to use their respective gifts and abilities. All staff must accept full responsibility to invest in this close-knit community that shares most work and off-time hours together. Staff members are expected to adopt a teamwork mentality listening and encouraging other staff members through clear communication of needs, thoughts, and plans.



## Downsides of the Job

Staff occasionally work 10+ hour days. The work can be physically demanding and require staff to be outside in rain, cold, and heat. There is no time off for holidays. There is a steep learning curve for new hires and staff will be asked to assist in work areas that may be unfamiliar. There is also very limited time to communicate with friends and family outside of La Vida as well as limited time for leaving base camp property.



## Upsides of the Job

Staff are working outdoors for the majority of the summer in a spiritually rich community. Staff are given the chance to connect with others who are committed to their faith in Jesus, witness large amounts of student growth firsthand, and make life-long impact on the lives of participants. Most meals are shared together and staff often are given an hour of devotional/personal time in the morning. This is an opportunity to learn a wide-range of skills and work with a deeply mission-driven organization. Staff will receive investment from leadership in training, debriefs and shared life. All staff get the privilege of working in the legacy of a 50-year-old program that has served hundreds of staff and thousands of participants.