



Adventure Guide Internship Overview

The New Life Ranch Adventure Guide Internship is a leadership building program designed for college-aged students interested in pursuing a career in Christian camp ministry, outdoor education, or experiential education. This internship includes hands-on training, practical experience, personal reflective evaluation, and leadership training and development.

The Internship will take place at New Life Ranch (NLR), a multi-site Christian camp and retreat center in northeastern Oklahoma. NLR was founded in 1958 as “A valley set apart for the glory of God.” Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equip believers for ministry. Our strategic vision revolves around launching Christlike leaders to change the world and we do this through summer camps, adventure education programs, weekend retreats, and a mentoring ministry in our local community’s school system. Interns at NLR will get to experience all aspects of a large camp ministry.

The Adventure Guide Internship is a nine-month program and the learning and experience will primarily be through NLR’s Adventure Education Department. Internship participants or “Adventure Guides” will be trained as instructors for schools that come to NLR to participate in Adventure Education programs while also completing college-level course work and readings centered on philosophy, theory, and practice of outdoor education and ministry. During this time Adventure Guides will work with the nearly 5,000 students that come for Adventure Education throughout the year.

When not working directly with Adventure Education programming Adventure Guides will have the opportunity to experience other critical aspects of camp ministry. Some of these are weekend retreats, housekeeping, food service, camp administration, building maintenance, grounds, summer programs, and the Colcord Launch Center.

Adventure Guides fulfill a vital role in New Life Ranch’s ability to fulfill our mission. Our Adventure Education program is a fantastic way for new kids and families to get connected with our larger ministry. Adventure Guides are the secret (or not so secret) sauce that make this program successful.

If you’re accepted into this internship program you will get hands-on work experience, earn various professional certifications, and be intentionally disciplined and developed during your nine-month tenure. We will provide room and partial board and a stipend of \$800-\$950/month.

Program Details

General Qualifications:

- Have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, exhibiting evidence of a consistent, growing, daily walk.
- Be in agreement with New Life Ranch's purpose, statement of faith, and policies, and with the mission and vision statement of the Adventure Education program.
- Have strong leadership qualities and be a good Christian role model.
- Present yourself professionally in regard to hygiene, dress, work ethic, and attitude.

Specific Qualifications:

- Desire to serve the Lord by teaching others about our Creator through His creation.
- Possess patience and the ability to instruct various age groups, particularly children.
- Have experience, education, training, and/or a willingness to learn to teach outdoor skills, science classes, team building, and ropes course adventures.
- Are a "people person" who enjoys and has a good rapport with people of various ages and can relate to them well.
- Demonstrates good decision-making abilities.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Learn appropriate experiential teaching techniques as they are modeled.
- Participate in the training and orientation program regarding the program planning, curriculum, teaching, and leadership.
- Prepare for and instruct learning labs, night programming, campfires, and other activities as scheduled.
- Become ACCT Level One Practitioner certified in order to facilitate high ropes and team building activities for AE groups.
- Attend and participate in scheduled staff meetings.
- Ensure safety in all activities and classes for the students and adults under your charge.
- Work with teachers to provide the best possible experience for students.

Timeframe:

The Adventure Guide Internship starts in the middle of August and concludes in the middle of May. Exact dates will vary year-to-year. Internship participants receive 5 paid vacation days, Thanksgiving and the day after, the week of Christmas, New Year's Day, and Good Friday off.

Housing and Community:

Adventure Guides stay in a shared house, guys in one and girls in another. Furniture, kitchen supplies, and beds are provided. You are responsible for your own linens and personal clothing and gear. You will also participate in the same community events as all of NLR's seasonal staff. Some of those events are dinners at full-time staff members' homes, Bible Studies, having a one-on-one mentor, holiday parties, etc.

Included Training and/or Certifications:

- ACCT Level 1 Challenge Course Facilitation
- Project Learning Tree
- Project WILD
- Project WET
- Leave No Trace Trainer
- First Aid/CPR
- USA Level 1 Archery Certification
- Christian Camp and Conference Association Ozark Sectional Conference
- Overnight trip to the Buffalo National River
- Your One Degree
- Spiritual Facilitation
- Adventure Education learning labs on outdoor sciences and skills

Commitment to Development:

NLR is committed to the development of employees, both full-time and seasonal. While you're a part of this program you will walk through our custom-built leadership self-assessment and goal-setting process. This process is designed to help form you into a more Christlike leader personally and professionally.

Program Leadership:

The Adventure Guide Internship is under the direction of Jared McDaniel, Adventure Education Coordinator at New Life Ranch and Bethany Cook, Adventure Education Manager. Jared has worked in outdoor and camp ministry since 2008 and holds a Masters Degree in Education. Bethany has been at NLR since graduating from Southwest Baptist University with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology in 2011.

Daily job functions of Adventure Guides will be supervised by the Adventure Education Specialist, a Graduate Assistant pursuing a Master's Degree at either John Brown University or Wheaton College. Adventure Guides will also work closely with and be trained by NLR's many other highly qualified and dedicated staff members.

Application Steps

If you're interested in applying for this internship please visit:

<https://newliferanch.campbrainstaff.com/> You will need to create a login and then click on the Adventure Education application.

Alternatively, you can contact Bethany Cook at bethany@newliferanch.com or (918) 422-5506 if you have any questions.

Adventure Guide Schedule

August

- Complete two and a half weeks of training on Adventure Education curriculum and practices.
 - Basic facilitation
 - Adventure Education science curriculum
 - High ropes
 - Archery
 - Evening programming
 - NLR Procedures
- Overnight trip to the Buffalo National River area to build team cohesion.

September - November

- Fall season of Adventure Education
 - Instruct Learning Labs during the day (Monday - Friday)
 - Lead night games and activities for 2-3 evenings per week
 - Monitor program supplies and ensure teaching locations and activity sites are ready to use.
 - Begin community Bible study.
 - Begin community family dinners.
 - Begin meeting with your mentor.

December - February

- Advanced facilitation training
- Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, Project WET trainings
- Leave No Trace Trainer training
- In-School programs begin
- Help host 3 weekend retreats with our Guest Services team
- Assist the Colcord Launch Center (a NLR ministry) with after school programs.

March - May

- Spring Season of Adventure Education
 - Instruct Learning Labs during the day (Monday - Friday)
 - Lead night games and activities for 2-3 evenings per week
 - Monitor program supplies and ensure teaching locations and activity sites are ready to use.
- Complete your Learning Goals and prepare for what God has for you next (whether within or outside of NLR)