TIME COMMITMENT: Outdoor Club Leaders is for 4-credits as a REC 3993 Directed Study. Students need to commit to approximately of 120 hours to Outdoor Club related activities during the semester. You will also have some additional time working with Wilderness Inquiry on assigned projects to complete the remaining 70 hours for 4 credits. Amount of weekly commitment will vary depending on club meetings and activities or trips planned. Responsibilities include areas such as: program planning, preparation for events, enthusiastic program delivery, and post-event responsibilities including evaluations. Students must be able to commit the majority of their hours between 8:30AM and 5:30PM Monday-Friday to be eligible for this experience. There is an occasional opportunity for weekend events as well. If students are not deemed a good fit for leading an Outdoor Club, they may be asked to complete other projects or responsibilities with the agency.

EARNING CREDIT: Interested applicants are able to earn credit through the University of Minnesota for working as an Outdoor Club Leader. Contact Dr. Connie Magnuson at magnu001@umn.edu to register for credits through the RPLS program.

SUPERVISOR: Program Manager at Wilderness Inquiry

SUMMARY: The primary responsibility of Outdoor Club Leaders is to serve youth through outdoor programming and ensure the safety and quality of experiences. The goal of Outdoor Club is to engage youth with the outdoors and learning. Outdoor Club Leaders are considered educators and are required to prepare for classroom activities with students in addition to leading outdoor experiences. Outdoor Club Leaders must work collaboratively with WI staff, National Park Service rangers, and teachers to meet specific curricula goals. Outdoor Club leaders will be supported by WI staff and NPS rangers. These staff will oversee managing outdoor club meetings and school contacts. Basic activity outlines and any needed program materials will be provided.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: The ability to plan, implement and follow through with responsibilities is essential. This job requires the ability to work with youth in the outdoors, excellent people skills, the ability to oversee projects independently, a knack for teaching, and strong communication skills. Must be interested in leading classroom activities and day trips for students of all ages and abilities, including students with disabilities. Life as an Outdoor Club Leader can be fun, exciting, and incredibly rewarding, but it is also a tremendous amount of responsibility and it can involve a lot of hard and challenging work.

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES: Responsible for providing leadership in the classroom and on field excursions with groups of 10 to 20 students. Students will range in age from 5th – 12th grade. Leaders must be able to organize, plan, and lead single day events and classroom activities. Leaders must be willing to prepare for lessons by meeting with teachers and/or partner staff regarding curricula goals, and review all lesson materials prior to the lesson. Leaders must be willing to deliver content in classroom/school settings in addition to outdoor settings. Leaders must be interested in working consistently with a group of students and school to assist in developing positive relationships between staff and students. Background check required.

TRAINING: Outdoor Club Leaders will receive training in outdoor programming, interpretation of local areas, working with youth of diverse backgrounds, and coordination of events. You will also be able to apply your classroom learning to a real-world setting. Leaders will have the opportunity to work with a variety of partners including National Park Service, Department of Natural Resources, the Loppet Foundation, and more.

TRAINING DATE: Students will receive and email from staff at Wilderness Inquiry at the start of the semester with the date for the first meeting and training. At that time, schedules will be discussed and assignments to school clubs and other jobs determined.