Outdoor Skills Instructor

Metroparks Toledo / Hans Rudolph

On the Job

Wait, you got paid for this?

My job as an Outdoor Skills Instructor was incredibly vast, requiring me to facilitate a variety of programs including archery, tree climbing, leadership, team building, mountain biking, fishing, bird watching, natural history, and more.

With such a wide degree of program options, a typical week was non-repetitive. It was very exciting to wake up in the morning and see what the day would bring. Sometimes we would schedule our days during the week so that our trailer could visit 2 different parks that week, while other days we would just travel to one park.

However, every day was truly different from the last and never felt bored.

Although every day was different, there were a lot of consistencies as well. Preparing for a program typically involved contacting parents 2-3 days prior to ensure they were prepared for the upcoming program. Most programs involved packing gear and hauling gear trailer to the program location. During programs I typically served as an assistant to one of our qualified teachers, or I would teach the program, as long as I had a level of understanding.

One of my favorite aspects of my job was the fact that I was responsible for facilitating a variety of programs including archery, tree climbing, leadership, team building, mountain biking, fishing, bird watching, natural history, and more.

Trees, Trailers, and a Pool? Oh my!

My favorite program was our recreational tree climbing program. My favorite season was during the months of November and December. During this time, I had the opportunity to lead our tree climbing program.

Not all parts of the job were so pleasant, however. I will admit that I struggled with the idea of earning money through my work. I felt a strong desire to be of service to others and to create a positive impact on those around me. As a result, I often felt conflicted about receiving payment for my efforts.

Go For It!

My advice to anyone interested in a similar experience is to go for it! The outdoors can be intimidating, but the community is amazing and willing to help. We all have something to learn from each other, and I encourage anyone who is considering a job with the Metroparks to give it a try. I truly believe that the Metroparks represents an incredible opportunity for anyone who is passionate about the outdoors, education, and nature. I am confident that working with the Metroparks will be a rewarding and fulfilling experience for anyone who is passionate about making a difference in the world.