

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Leader Mittagundi Outdoor Education Centre

It is rare chance to be a valued part of a professional team delivering unique opportunities for young people on our classic outdoor programs. The atmosphere at Mittagundi is simple, honest and happy. There is an chance to live and work together in an environment where people matter more than anything else. Leaders are an active part in running this unique pioneer style place and organisation alongside young people.

Leaders are at the heart of Mittagundi's large community, share a purposeful life and experience a year of professional development and personal learning through training, skills and group work. Positions are voluntary in nature with a great remuneration package. It can be both meaningful and challenging.

It is hard to aptly capture the experience of being a Mittagundi leader but this is how this years team describe it:

'Genuine and so fulfilling' - Thomas, MG Leader
'An experience of extremes in every direction' - Caz, MG Leader
'Rich, real and a laugh a minute' - Lizzy, MG Leader
'An amazing experience shared with a team and young people' - Daniel, MG Leader
'You wont regret it!' - Cindy, MG Leader
'Sharing a life of real purpose, challenge and growth' - Jac, MG Director

What is Mittagundi?

Mittagundi Outdoor Education Centre is an independent, not for profit organisation established to provide educational experiences and opportunities for young people in the mountains. The property is set up as a pioneer styled farm in the Glen Valley, Victoria (about 50 km north of Omeo). We run courses for young people aged between 14 and 17 who spend ten days learning about the local mountains themselves and others through a journey of bushwalking, rafting, abseiling, being a tangible part of a farm and living as a community or on a six to nine day alpine program during our winter season. Programs are based on working together as a community with key values of respect, fairness, responsibility and safety. There are opportunities to experience simplicity, be resourceful and value people above all else.

Key Selection Criteria

Leaders come from a diverse range of backgrounds and life experiences and we select leaders on a complement of character, skills and experience. We select leaders on a criteria of:

Keen interest in young people and the bush

Young people are the core purpose of our organisation. We work alongside young people by both challenging and supporting them. The relationships we build with them and the way we relate to young people are important to the type of education we do at Mittagundi, people are what matter the most. We live in a pretty amazing environment in the Glen Valley. We are 'right' in the bush and spend time in stunning places in the Victorian High Country.

Experience or desire to lead young people in the outdoors

Experience in leading young people or passion to gain skills in leading young people in the outdoors is important. We are a professional outdoor education centre and have great opportunities for those skilled and ready to work with young people in unique and meaningful ways or those ready to learn with training, skills and support.

Sense of maturity and initiative ‘to have a go’

As part of a team you are responsible for the wellbeing of young people that come to Mittagundi as well as key work areas that run the organisation. Ability to make good clear decisions is valued. As with young people that come on programs, leaders often do many things for the first time at Mittagundi. It is great to be confident to just ‘have a go’. Leaders have many learning opportunities themselves in personal and practical ways.

Commitment to working, living and learning as part of a team.

The way in which we work together as a team shapes the experiences of young people and each other. We share a home space as well as a work space at Mittagundi and value care, support and respect of each other. We understand that conflict is a natural occurrence and are committed to good process to work through issues and look after each other.

Effective Communication Skills

Communication is key at Mittagundi. Communicating with young people, as part of a team and within a community. We continue to skill up on communication through out the year, through practice and specific training.

Demonstrate a strong flexible work ethic; ability to take on increasing responsibility and autonomy in work

Jac (our director) has a democratic and strength based style that values leaders as the engine of the organisation, solutions not problems, growth, community building, shared leadership and decision making. There is plenty of work, it is often changing, there can be early mornings and late nights. The ability to take on responsibility and be autonomous in work areas over time is important as well as a unique opportunity for leaders.

Ability to work through challenging times of stress and pressure

As well as young people experiencing challenge while at Mittagundi, there can be challenging times for leaders. Leaders need to keep a calm head and make good decisions when the pressure is on. The challenges can be physical (cold, wet, tired) as well as social (sharing your life and home with so many others) and personal (being away from friends and family). The growth and learning from successfully meeting challenges is a key part of your year as a Mittagundi Leader.

Understanding of Mittagundi philosophy

Our philosophy is based on the importance of people and community, the value of living simply and being resourceful pioneer style, working alongside young people rather than above. More info can be found on Mittagundi at www.mittagundi.org or in any of Ian Stapleton’s books about Mittagundi’s beginnings ‘Something Small’ and ‘Amongst the Mountains’.

Current drivers Licences and Working with Children Check

Drivers licence and working with children’s check are both practical requirements for the work at hand.

Key Responsibilities

Leading Young People

- Leading and working alongside young people in the mountains and at Mittagundi
- Creating a safe environment and learning opportunities for young people with challenge and support
- As a team, running outdoor programs for young people including classic ten day courses, winter programs and follow up programs through out the year.

Being Part Of a Team

- Working and living together as a team, planning and delivering projects and programs together.
- Active involvement in Team Process and Group Work (planning, decision making and organisation, working through issues together, team meetings, setting values and

agreements as a team within Mittagundi's philosophy)

Responsibility for Property and Work Areas

Each leader has a suite of job areas that includes one or a couple of areas from each of these four main regions below. It is a chance to contribute old skills and learn new ones.

- Animals (Horses to Chickens)
- Administration (Newsletter to Merchandise)
- Property Areas (Fire management to the pantry to the blacksmith forge)
- Events (Open Weekend to Garden Party)

Active Part of Mittagundi's Operations

- Working as part of a progressive organisation addressing modern risk management, occupational health and safety, and compliance (while retaining unique experiences for young people)
- Fundraising and sourcing resources
- Representing Mittagundi and being active in the Community: From supporting neighbours, writing letters to running community events: Pioneer Skills and the Bushdance, Locals Dinner, The Hop, Markets, Fundraisers (such as wine bottling) and Community nights ('Meet the crew' in Melbourne), Wollangarra Open Day.

Remuneration Package

- Board and simple living expenses at Mittagundi. Mittagundi is your home while you are a leader and the package includes such expenses such as all food, postage, batteries, candles, some phone calls, borrowing any outdoor gear for the year, good discounts at outdoor retailers etc.
- An 'honorarium' (pocket money) of \$6,000
- Formal and in house training including:
 - Wilderness First Aid Certificate (Leader 7 day course)
 - Chainsaw Ticket with East Gippsland Tafe
 - Four Wheel Driving Ticket with East Gippsland Tafe
 - Swift water rescue with the Rescue Training Group
 - Competency based Bushwalking and Ski touring leadership (ongoing)
 - Defensive Driving at DECA
 - Food handling with East Gippsland Tafe
 - Strength based Communication (ongoing)
 - Group work Training: processes and strategies (ongoing)
 - Group Management and Leadership in the Outdoors (ongoing)
 - Horse riding and Handling, Animal Husbandry, Environmental management, Pioneer Skills, Abseiling, Sledding, Rafting and Bushwalking with Young People
 - Planning and collaboratively running programs, a property, projects and events (ongoing)
 - Risk management and Occupational health and safety (ongoing) *and more*

Please note: Other training and professional development is available by negotiation if you already have one or some of the formal qualifications and tickets we offer.

Practicalities

- Position starts in Early January with a week of handover with the past team. January and February are full of training and orientation before young people programs start.
- The positions are a full time commitment. We have four weeks off in June, one week off in September and at Christmas with 8 flexidays for negotiation.

To Apply

Contact us at Mittagundi on (03) 5159 7238 to discuss the position and let us know your interested. Come and visit Mittagundi and check it out for yourself.

Information is also available on Mittagundi at www.mittagundi.org.au

To apply, please send a CV and application letter addressing selection criteria as well as these

two questions

'What can I offer Mittagundi?' & 'What can Mittagundi offer me?'

Please promptly post to: Jac Semmler (Director), 'Mittagundi' 4385 Omeo Hwy, Glen Valley VIC 3898.

or

email to Tom Hay (Mittagundi Council Chair) at tom@mittagundi.org.au

The positions are generally filled by early December.