

# Spring Seasonal Field Instructor

**Location:** Circleville, WV

**Length of Employment:** 27 March – 2 June 2017

**Deadline:** Positions open until filled

**Supervisor:** Course Director

**Overview:** The Mountain Institute (TMI) is seeking outdoor professionals to lead high-quality, adventure-based experiential education courses in a remote and challenging setting.

## **Position Overview:**

Based at the remote Spruce Knob Mountain Center in West Virginia, Field Instructors of the Appalachian Program lead students on “Mountain Learning” courses, helping people become confident, competent individuals with a clear vision of their responsibilities and potential for improving the human condition and the natural world.

Our courses typically serve students in 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, from schools in West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, D.C., and New York. Courses include 1-2 day residential courses on our 400-acre mountain property, 1-2 day field courses in local communities, 4-8 day field courses in the nearby Monongahela National Forest, and a variety of off-site courses throughout the Mid-Atlantic States, including the Appalachian Trail.

Field Instructors help students gain confidence, experience, and appreciation for mountains through lessons and activities such as hiking, backpacking, camp craft, orienteering, caving, stream ecology, forest ecology, geology, rock climbing, canoeing, outdoor cooking, and survival skills. In addition, Field Instructors tailor courses to meet the thematic goals of each school we serve, leading students in discussions and initiatives around leadership, communication, environmental stewardship, teamwork, and creative problem-solving.

For more information about Mountain Learning Programs, please visit [www.mountain.org/appalachian](http://www.mountain.org/appalachian).

## **Institutional Background:**

The Mountain Institute works to conserve mountain environments, preserve mountain cultures and sustainably develop mountain economies. Founded on the slopes of Spruce Knob in West Virginia in 1972, we are now headquartered in Washington D.C. with locally-staffed offices in Nepal (Himalayas), Peru (Andes) and West Virginia (Appalachians).

## **Responsibilities:**

- Maintain a physically and emotionally safe environment for students and guests.
- Prepare and deliver hands-on, experiential, and inquiry-based lessons in a remote outdoor setting for both day and evening programs.
- Lead 1-8 day residential and field based programs in challenging settings that include hiking, backpacking, camp craft, orienteering, caving, stream ecology, forest ecology, geology, rock climbing, canoeing, outdoor cooking, and survival skills.
- Facilitate discussions and initiatives around leadership, communication, environmental stewardship, team work, creative problem-solving, and other subjects.
- Implement and model excellent risk management strategies and administer first aid as needed.
- Teach and lead groups in the outdoors, in varying weather conditions, and on uneven terrain.
- Prepare facilities and gear before trips and clean facilities and gear at the end of trips.

- Prepare and cook meals for visiting educational and rental groups under supervision of Kitchen Manager.
- Maintain a professional demeanor while interacting with groups and guests.
- Assist with facility upkeep as needed, including basic carpentry, repairs, vehicle maintenance, and general troubleshooting.

**Requirements:**

- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent experience
- Current Wilderness First Responder Certification (Preferred)
- Minimum of Wilderness First Aid & CPR/AED certification (Required)  
\*(WFA certification offered on site April 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> 2017)
- Effective communication, leadership, and interpersonal skills
- Positive attitude, determination, and unassailable work ethic
- Teaching experience, either formal or informal
- Ability to confidently lead groups in a remote outdoor setting
- Desire to teach and work with young people from varying social and economic backgrounds
- Curiosity about the natural world and willingness to learn academic natural science lessons
- Experience working in the outdoors, especially in inclement weather
- Desire to protect, conserve, and promote mountain ecosystems
- Ability to live in shared space with other instructors and practice positive self-care.
- Valid driver's license
- Ability to work flexible hours including evenings and some weekends
- Desire to live in a remote place with an outstanding community of outdoor professionals and to work hard to make positive change in our world.

**Benefits:**

Starting pay is \$60.00 per day. Instructors are also provided with housing during their period of employment and board during programs.

**To apply, send a cover letter, resume, and three references to:**

Melinda Brooks  
[MBrooks@mountain.org](mailto:MBrooks@mountain.org)

Or mail to: Melinda Brooks  
 Spruce Knob Mountain Center  
 18 Woodlands Way  
 Circleville, WV 26804

The Mountain Institute is an Equal Opportunity Employer.