

SITKA SOUND OCEAN ADVENTURES

Job Profile – Kayak Guide

Company Background: Sitka Sound Ocean Adventures is a small, family-owned business. We operate a variety of guided sea kayak programs, from the 2.5-hour *Harbor & Islands Paddle*, to the full-day *Volcano Coast Cruise & Paddle*, to multi-day *Wild Coast Expeditions*. We also provide kayak rental and outfitter services for those who like exploring on their own. Our summer base of operations is the Big Blue Bus at Crescent Harbor. We employ 5-6 guides (some are part-time) and 2-3 support staff during our busy summer season, which runs from early-May through late-September. We are in this business because of our love for exploring wild Alaska, and the fun we have sharing it with others. It is our intention to earn a reputation for conducting the finest-quality kayak tours available anywhere. All of our tours are conducted with a very low participant/guide ratio, normally 6-to-1 or lower.

Essential Qualities & Qualifications

- Must have water-oriented background & skills and/or previous adventure-guiding experience.
- Must have a background or strong interest in natural & human history.
- Must be reliable, self-motivated, honest, enthusiastic, gregarious, and love the outdoors.
- Must be team-oriented and have well-developed interpersonal and leadership skills.
- Must have strong communication skills and enjoy story-telling and conversation.
- Must be physically fit, able to swim, able to lift & carry up to 50 pounds, and drug-free.
- Must be at least 21 years of age by May 18, 2010 (applicable to lead guide position only).
- Must possess First Aid & CPR certification (prior to guiding with paying guests).
- Must be willing to work variable work hours, including long-days, evenings and weekends.
- Must be willing to pitch in on a moments notice to help fellow guides, staff and customers.
- Must have infinite patience and a playful sense of humor!

Sea Kayak Guide Responsibilities

1. Set up for daily tour operations: kayak staging & gear preparation, and coordinate with shore staff to confirm the day's tour schedule and tour float plans.
2. Provide safety orientation for guests on our guided kayak tours as well as for those who are renting kayaks to explore on their own. Orientations include teaching proper fit & adjustment of equipment, good paddle technique and emergency rescue skills.
3. Lead and Assistant guide duties while on tour: ensure the safety of our guests through constant awareness of hazards and close observation of each guest's abilities and needs.
4. Provide an educational and fun experience through delivery of informative narrative, good story-telling and appropriate conversation (adjust to suit each guest's individual communication style).
5. Depending on tour launch & return location, guides will occasionally be asked to assist with guest transport by company car or van, and kayak transport by vehicle-towed trailer.
6. During "down time", between tours and on days that are less busy, guides may be given the option to assist with kayak & gear maintenance and repairs, working at a shore rate of \$10/hour.
7. Assist other guides, shore staff and potential customers however the situation warrants.

Compensation & Benefits

For Lead Guide — DOE, at least \$12/hr for guiding. \$10/hr for maintenance & shore-side work.

For Assist Guide — DOE, at least \$10/hr for guiding. \$10/hr for maintenance & shore-side work.

- Positions are seasonal full-time or part-time. Covered by Workman's Comp Insurance.
- Guides are welcome to use kayaks & gear to enjoy the area with friends & family on days off.
- Our guides have full authority to re-route or cancel tours when unsafe conditions develop.
- Because of the high quality of our tours and our low participant/guide ratio, well-performing guides can expect to earn more in gratuities than employees in almost any other field of tourism.

Note: *Preference is given to candidates available to work the entire season, without interruption.*