O&M Intern: Camp Spark Position

Northwest Association for Blind Athletes provides life-changing opportunities through sports and physical activity to individuals who are blind and visually impaired. To learn more about our organization, visit www.nwaba.org.

Position Description

Reporting to the Camp Spark Directors or designated Camp Spark leadership, the Camp Spark O&M Intern provides orientation and mobility instruction to campers who are blind or visually impaired in a camp setting under the supervision of a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS). The O&M Intern works as part of the Camp Spark team to assess camper needs, support safe and independent travel, and develop professional O&M skills through supervised instruction and practical experience.

Responsibilities

- Complete an environmental assessment of the camp setting prior to camper arrival.
- Review assigned campers' O&M independence information and related materials before camp begins.
- Assess assigned campers upon arrival to help determine independence levels, routes, and instructional needs.
- Observe O&M lessons provided by a COMS and participate in supervised instructional activities.
- Plan and implement O&M instruction at designated levels under the guidance and supervision of the COMS.
- Develop and implement formally planned and observed O&M lessons as assigned by the supervising COMS.
- Develop and implement informal O&M instruction with assigned campers throughout camp.
- Identify effective instructional strategies for assigned campers and communicate those strategies to counselors and other Camp Spark team members.
- Develop tactile maps or other accessible orientation materials to support campers in navigating the camp environment and participating in activities.
- Support group leaders and counselors with camper O&M needs, including reminders, coaching, and consultation as appropriate.
- Coordinate with counselors and group leaders to identify appropriate times for individual, small-group, or integrated O&M instruction.

- Complete required O&M assessments, documentation, and practicum-related records for assigned campers.
- Communicate respectfully and professionally with campers, families, partner agencies, and fellow Camp Spark team members.
- Participate fully in required training, orientation, planning, and camp activities.
- Complete other duties as assigned by Camp Spark leadership, including supporting camp activities when appropriate.

Required Expectations

- Adhere to high professional standards and serve as a positive role model throughout Camp Spark.
- Follow Camp Spark policies, procedures, safety expectations, and standards of conduct.
- Complete required pre-camp planning, training, orientation, and communication in a timely manner.
- Refrain from possessing or using alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, or illegal recreational drugs during Camp Spark and all required training or orientation activities.
- Be enrolled in an accredited Orientation and Mobility program.
- Be at least 19 years of age.
- Successfully complete all required background checks, including a check of the National Sex Offender Registry, when applicable.
- Be able to participate actively in the camp environment for extended periods and perform the essential functions of the role, with or without reasonable accommodation.
- Demonstrate initiative, reliability, enthusiasm, and the ability to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Demonstrate strong oral and written communication skills.
- Receive, respond to, and implement feedback professionally.
- Have access to a laptop, computer, or tablet and be comfortable using required digital tools, including Microsoft Forms, Excel, or similar platforms.

Desired Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Experience working with individuals who are blind or visually impaired or with individuals with other disabilities.
- Pre-professional or professional experience related to visual impairment services, physical education, recreation, adaptive sports, or physical activity.
- Ability and experience captaining a tandem bike, or willingness to learn.

- Current First Aid and CPR certification is preferred.

Camp Commitment

O&M Interns are expected to commit to the full Camp Spark experience, including all required orientation and training. Specific camp dates, arrival and departure times, and annual logistics will be communicated during the application and selection process.

Compensation and Support

- A stipend may be provided based on the structure of the annual Camp Spark program and available funding.
- Room and board are provided during the required on-site Camp Spark commitment.
- Practicum hours may be available based on the intern's academic program requirements, the amount of direct service provided, and approval by the supervising COMS and academic program.
- Any additional travel or reimbursement information will be communicated during the application and selection process.

Application

- Complete the Camp Spark team application.
- Provide required professional references or recommendation materials, if requested.
- Participate in the Camp Spark interview and selection process.
- Complete any required screening, training, and onboarding steps before camp.
- Coordinate practicum or internship requirements with the supervising COMS and academic program, as applicable.

Questions: Camp Spark Team, campspark@nwaba.org