



Job Description – Chief Mountaineer

Overview

You will take overall responsibility for all mountaineering taking place on the expedition. This includes choosing suitable areas and mountaineering objectives and offering guidance and training to the individual group (“Fire”) adventure leaders. It is likely you will also act as a Fire Leader, working with approximately 12 Young Explorers (YEs) alongside a second (Science) Fire Leader. The Science Fire Leader is responsible for constructing a scientific project with the consultation of the Chief Scientist. You will report directly to the Chief Leader of the expedition.

Profile

Necessary Skills

- Significant personal mountaineering experience outside the UK
- A proven history of managing group safety in the mountains
- Experience of providing mountain skills training to novices
- An enthusiasm for expeditioning and the ability to convey this to our Young Explorers
- Adventure First Aid Qualification (weekend training course provided free of charge by BSES)

Desirable Attributes

- MIC or MIA qualification
- An interest in youth development and experience of working with young people in the mountains
- Previous experience of the expedition area

Responsibilities

Pre Expedition

- Attend training weekends (2 to 4 weekends in the 6 months prior to the expedition)
- Coordinate any mountaineering skills training sessions at the training weekends
- Advise the Chief Leader on mountaineering equipment requirements for the expedition
- Contribute to planning, Risk Assessments, expedition-specific guidelines and similar as appropriate and directed by Chief Leader, particularly in your area of expertise
- Work with the Chief Leader to research the mountaineering history of the expedition area, including, previous expeditions, likely objectives and any potential unclimbed peaks.

On Expedition

As Chief Mountaineer you will take overall responsibility for all mountaineering on the expedition

- Scope out potential mountaineering objectives
- Help other adventure Fire Leaders to plan their adventurous activity at an appropriate level
- Oversee any mountaineering training of the Young Explorers
- Ensure groups are equipped with the appropriate mountaineering equipment
- Ensure BSES Guidelines relating to mountaineering are followed and updated as appropriate



BSES EXPEDITIONS

BRITISH SCHOOLS EXPLORING SOCIETY

In addition to the above if you are also acting as a Fire Leader your responsibilities for your Fire in the field are shared with the second Fire Leader, except those which pertain directly to your expertise (e.g. mountaineering)

- Responsibility for, and pastoral care of, YEs in your Fire group
- To train the YEs in the methods necessary to live and operate in the environment
- Carry out the planned adventurous activities and facilitate any science projects
- All leaders, must regard it as a priority to ensure the safety of each and every member of the expedition at all times
- To manage a feedback and review process with the YEs in the Fire following the structure provided by the BSES
- Where an Assistant Leader is attached to your Fire, to give them responsibility as appropriate, oversee their actions and provide learning opportunities

Post Expedition

- Contribute to the Expedition Report, Annual Gathering presentation and expedition feedback as appropriate and directed by Chief Leader