Swoop Camp Captain Description

The Swoop Camp Captain position allows students the unique opportunity to welcome new students to the University of Utah through an extended orientation program. This leadership role within the Center for New Student & Family Programs (NSFP) and Outdoor Adventures (OA) helps new student’s further transition to the U.

Swoop Camp Captains aid in the academic, social, and cultural acclimation to Utah by leading small groups in various outdoor activities, facilitating discussions, and providing meaningful mentoring relationships with new students. Swoop Camp Captains are role models who display a positive attitude and convey a sense of spirit and enthusiasm for the University of Utah. Captains have the challenging, but rewarding position of creating a community for new students.

There are two separate positions; Technical Captain and Captain. Both positions will have similar responsibilities but the Technical Captain position has additional qualifications.

Swoop Camp Captains are official representatives for NSFP, the Division of Student Affairs, OA, Campus Recreation Services, and the University of Utah, and should act accordingly with professionalism and good judgment.

This year there will be two applications for Swoop Camp Captains. One application will be through the Center for New Student and Family Programs and the other application will be with Outdoor Adventures. Applications will differ slightly based on the needs of each office and what they are seeking in a captain. Applications can be found on both organization’s websites.

About Swoop Camp

There are four types of Swoop Camps offered: Adventure, Backcountry, Crimson, and Spirit. Swoop Camp is an extended orientation program designed to help further ease the transition of new students to the University of Utah. These programs are offered as an optional supplement to the mandatory summer orientation program. The primary goals of Swoop Camp are to get students excited about the U, help them form connections with their peers, provide intentional leadership development, share Utah history and traditions, and provide resources for student involvement and success.

Adventure is an experiential camp designed to connect first-year students with each other and the various outdoor opportunities around Salt Lake City. Students will participate in different outdoor adventures while also discussing their transition to the university. The three sessions of Adventure are June 26th-June 30th, July 17th-July 21st, and July 31st-August 4th. In each session, students will rotate various daytime activities and stay at the same campsite for the whole trip. Every day there will be a different activities; you will rock climb, spend a day on the water, and hike in the mountains.

Backcountry is a backpacking excursion. Students will be in a remote location in southern Utah (June 19th-23rd) or enjoying the wonders of the Uinta Mountains (July 10th-14th), while forging strong relationships with a small group of other new students and experienced leaders. We will view some of the tallest peaks in Utah, swim in clear lakes, explore desert landscapes, and create unique experiences from your new backyard.

Crimson will be an extended orientation experience that focuses on making connections and building community for students who have transferred to the U. Participants will spend a day rock climbing and a day on the water. Swoop Camp Crimson will be held on August 9th-12th.
Spirit is a fun-filled leadership retreat for new students at the U. This experience focuses on making connections, building community, and simply having fun. Swoop Camp Spirit will also introduce students to important university history, traditions, and build excitement for their first year of college. Students will participate in numerous small group activities. Spirit will take place from August 13th – August 16th.

Position Details

Qualifications:
- Must be in good academic and disciplinary standing with the university with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA
- Must possess strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Must display strong work ethic and willingness to work the expected and unexpected hours necessary to implement a successful Swoop Camp
- Must display professionalism and school spirit
- Must attend all mandatory trainings
- Excitement to teach technical skills and share the outdoors with participants
- Must display strong group management skills and can effectively deal with group development and dynamics
- Understands a variety of leadership styles and can utilize them at the appropriate times.
- Ability to facilitate a variety of group games, initiatives, team building exercises, and icebreakers
- Technical Captains for Backcountry Swoop: Must have a current Wilderness First Aid certification (or greater) and must have previous backpacking experience.
- Technical Captains for Crimson and Adventure: Must have current CPR/First Aid certification (Wilderness First Aid preferred), previous experience boating (ideally with inflatable kayaks), ability to read class II rapids, understanding of basic rescue techniques, ability to teach boating basics including river safety talk, understanding of equipment (including use, fitting, function), ability to lead 5.8 sport route, ability to belay, construct basic anchors on bolts, clean anchors and rappel, perform basic rescue techniques, teach climbing basics, understanding of bottom- and top-site management.

Expectations:
- Captains will be committed to making a difference in the lives of new students
- Captains will actively engage themselves as part of the Swoop staff
- Captains will abide by all local, state, and university polices and laws both on- and off-campus
- Captains will maintain a positive and supportive attitude
- Captains will role model behavior that is reflective of a campus leader, both in person and in all forms of communication and social media
- Captains will create a welcoming and inclusive environment
- Additional employment will not interfere with Swoop Camp responsibilities

All Camps will require an additional pre-trip meeting to food shop, gear pull, and establish Captain norms. These meetings will be scheduled once Captains are hired.

Responsibilities (all subject to change based on program needs):
- Captains will attend and be on time for all official Swoop Camp trainings and activities that take place in the spring and summer
- Captains will help lead a small group of students as part of their specific Swoop Camp
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• Captains will fulfill the expectations of their position to the best of their ability during the tenure of employment
• Captains will agree to both formal and informal evaluations during employment
• Captains will commit to a high level of personal ethics and responsibility during the tenure of employment, and as such, will refrain from engaging in romantic relationships with campers, will refrain from drinking alcohol or smoking tobacco with or around campers, will not engage in illegal behavior, and will not be absent without notice
• Captains will agree to reduced compensation and/or termination at the discretion of the Assistant Director and Student Coordinator if expectations are not being met

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Important Dates and Additional Expectations

**Hiring Timeline:**
- February 16: Captain Applications Available
- March 2: Captain Applications Due
- March 12-14: Captain Interviews
- March 16: Captain Notification

**Adventure Captains:**
- June 16-17: Adventure Captain Training (2 Day/Overnight) – **Mandatory event!**
- June 26-30: Swoop Camp Adventure Session 1
- July 17-21: Swoop Camp Adventure Session 2
- July 31-August 4: Swoop Camp Adventure Session 3

**Additional Expectations:** To be an Adventure Captain you must work all three Adventure Camps listed above and Crimson Camp. Technical Captains for Adventure (and Crimson) are encouraged to work as many camps as possible.

**Backcountry Captains:**
- June 16-17: Backcountry Captain Training (2 Day/Overnight) – **Mandatory event!**
- June 19-23: Swoop Camp Backcountry Session 1
- July 17-21: Swoop Camp Backcountry Session 2

**Additional Expectations:** To be a Backcountry Captain you must work both camps listed above. Technical Captains for Backcountry are encouraged to work both camps.

**Crimson Captains:**
- June 16-17: Crimson Captain Training (2 Day/Overnight) – **Mandatory event!**
- August 9-12: Swoop Camp Crimson

**Additional Expectations:** See details under Adventure Captains.

**Spirit Captains:**
- August 9-11: Spirit Captain Training – **Mandatory event!**
- August 13-16: Swoop Camp Spirit
Compensation:

- Captains will receive a $200 stipend per camp with the exception of Swoop Camp Crimson which will only be compensated $160
- Captains that work all Adventure and Crimson camps will earn a total of $760
- Captains that work all Backcountry camps will earn a total of $400
- Captains who work Spirit camp will earn a total of $200
- Captains will receive an additional $40 stipend for the mandatory training

All questions should be directed to Cody Clements (cody.clements@utah.edu) or Kate Macklin (kate.macklin@crs.utah.edu)

Thank you for your interest in Swoop Camp! Apply online by March 7, 2018