PAWs Leader Application

Application Information

**Definition & Purpose:**

Do you love UNH and the outdoors? Do you want to help the next generation of Wildcats have a positive and successful transition to college? Apply to be a PAWs leader!

Every fall at UNH, groups of eight to ten incoming first year students and two leaders set out on week-long trips in the woods of New England during the week before classes begin. These trips give first-years a chance to form new friendships, enjoy the outdoors, and, most importantly, share a positive experience that will help them start UNH with a strong support system.

PAWs is a 5-day, 4-night outdoor pre-orientation program for incoming first-year students. PAWs leaders come from all corners of campus and are some of the most involved students at UNH. All totaled, PAWs is a 17-22 day commitment over the course of the year. We also have several other events when we ask you to stop by and help out. There will be two different program areas for PAWS this summer: Basecamp Adventure and Backpacking Adventure!

As a PAWS leader, you would play a crucial role in the success of the program. During the August trips, you and your co-leader would be responsible for not only the safety of your group, but also for fostering an enjoyable, stimulating group environment. Leaders must show sensitivity, compassion, and enthusiasm, and have the ability to think calmly and quickly under pressure. Leadership experience takes many forms, and group skills are as essential to a good trip as outdoors skills.

**Positions Available:**

**White Mountains Backpack Adventure Leader:** This area will consist of 3-4 groups based out of the White Mountains. Each day the group will backpack up to 9 miles to view scenic areas of New England! Previous backpacking experience is required in order to be a backpacking leader. *In order to lead this area of the program, a leader must have completed at least one of the following technical and leadership experiences.*

- **Technical:** KIN 551-Land Based Experience (preferred) or 2 Outdoor Adventure backpacking trips.
• **Leadership**: Leadership Camp, Applied Leadership RMP 593, or another 2-3 credit leadership specific class at UNH.

**White Mountains Basecamp Program Area Description**

This area of the program will have 4-5 groups based out of campgrounds in the White Mountains, NH. These groups will travel independently via van to different locations in the region each day to participate in a combination of activities which include: day hikes, canoe trips, and/or rock climbing. *In order to lead this area of the program, a leader must have completed at least one of the following technical and leadership experiences.*

- **Technical**: Former PAWs participant or an Outdoor Adventures day hike.
- **Leadership**: Leadership Camp, Applied Leadership RMP 593, or another 2-3 credit leadership class at UNH.

**Logistical Leader**: PAWS would not be possible without the help of a strong team of student volunteers coordinating the behind the scenes work. This position requires no prior experience with PAWs or the outdoors. However, flexibility and positive attitudes are a must! If you'd like to get more involved with PAWs, this is a great way to get started!

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

PAWs’ mission is to provide a challenging yet safe environment where incoming UNH students can experience a positive transition into college while learning about UNH and developing connections with other incoming students as well as upper class student leaders. The goals of PAWs are to:

- Facilitate the transition from high school to UNH
- Develop a sense of community, involvement, and tradition at UNH
- Foster a positive learning environment and a climate of mutual respect
- Create friendships and develop a support network
- Learn about UNH
- Be safe, yet challenged
- Have fun

During PAWs you and your co-leader(s) will have direct responsibility for a group of 8-10 first year students 24 hours a day. You will be asked to be fully present during PAWs, as well as during all training. All totaled, PAWs is a 17-22 day commitment over the course of the year. We also have several other events when we ask you to stop by and help out. All of our staff work to promote the mission of PAWs by presenting challenges for the groups to participate in and leading important discussions about topics that incoming students deal with at UNH.
Education:

- The applicant must be a current UNH student with a GPA of 2.5 or higher and no conduct violations.

What you get out of it (besides an awesome experience!!):

This is a volunteer position. It is a great addition to your resume because it shows leadership, responsibility, teamwork, and the ability to problem solve. In exchange for your time and dedication, leaders will receive a “thank you” gift in the form of a soft-shell jacket, flannel, or crazy creek at the conclusion of the program. Additionally, all food and accommodation is provided during both the training week and the program week. A free CPR class, steeply discounted WFA class and free leader training course are included in the spring training sessions.

Important Dates:

Mandatory Trainings

Unless you have an academic class, you must be at ALL of the trainings! Failure to attend a training will result in disqualification from becoming a PAWs Leader.

- Fri 01/05/18: Leader applications close.
- Mon 02/05/18 or Thurs 02/08/18: Group Interviews
- Mon 02/12/18 or Thurs 02/15/18: Individual Interviews
- Friday 02/19/17: New Leaders selected
- Wed 3/7/17 7:30pm: Welcome, Intros & Games, paperwork submission, and risk management training.
- Sat 03/11/18 and Sun 04/01/18: Wilderness First Aid (8am - 4pm. Both days are mandatory)
- Sat 04/29/18: Teambuilding at the Browne Center
- Sat 05/12/18: Program area specific training
- Mon 08/13/18 – Fri 08/17/18: August Leader Training
- Sat 08/18/18: Possible Food pack-out day
- Mon 08/20/18 – Fri 08/24/18: PAWs 2018

The training and experience you gain as a PAWs leader is highly transferable to other jobs and leadership positions. As a PAWs leader you will also have the opportunity to receive several valuable certifications (i.e. CPR, First Aid, WFA, Defensive driving, etc.) at little or no cost.

Application Process:

Applying to be a PAWs leader is a three step process.

1. Submit the written application (below) as a word or PDF document, cover letter, and resume to outdoor.adventures@unh.edu by Friday January 5th
2. Group interview (if selected, you’ll be sent a link to sign up for a spot)
3. Individual interview (if selected, you’ll be sent a link to sign up for a spot)

New leaders will be selected based on all three aspects of the application process. Please note that if you application is late, submitted as a non-printable PDF or incomplete you will not be considered for the program.

If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail outdoor.adventures@unh.edu. Thanks for applying and GOOD LUCK!!
PAWs Leader Application

Name: ___________________________ Graduation Year: ___________________________
Phone: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________
Campus Address: ___________________ Home Address: _________________________
Major: ___________________________ UNH ID #: ___________________________

I am applying to be a: 
( check all that apply ) 
New Leader: [□] Basecamp [□] Backpacking [□] Logistics
Transfer to: [□] Basecamp [□] Backpacking [□] Logistics

Please respond to the following questions:

1. What skills and/or attributes do you possess that would make you an excellent PAWs leader?

2. Have you participated, either as leader or participant, in any of the pre-orientation programs at UNH as a participant or staff member? If so, please list the program and date(s) involved. What did you gain from this/these experience(s) that you will use as a PAWs leader?

3. Please tell us about how you are involved on the UNH Campus. What are you a part of, do you hold any leadership positions? What have you gained from this/these experience(s) that you will use as a PAWs leader?

4. Thinking back on leaders you have had, what characteristics of those individuals would you try to emulate as a PAWs leader?

5. In one paragraph, please share your greatest accomplishment here at UNH?

6. Do you have any hidden talents? Tell us about one.

7. Describe your camping experience? Do you have any other significant outdoor experience (i.e. backpacking, canoeing, orienteering, ropes course, etc.), if so describe. How will you handle spending five days in the woods with limited/no access to showers?

8. Do you have any relevant certifications (i.e. First Aid, CPR, EMT, Defensive Driving, Lifeguard, etc.)? PAWs leaders are expected to have at least First Aid and CPR certifications (we provide several opportunities during the year). Is there any reason you would not be able to obtain these certifications?
9. PAWs leaders are required to attend ALL training dates on the following days (see first page). Are you able to commit to all of these dates? Please note that several other UNH programs may conflict with PAWs, such as Ols, RAs, athletics, study abroad, summer classes, etc. If you have conflicts with these dates, please list them here. We expect leaders will be present at all required training/program dates, but will occasionally consider absences on a case-by-case basis.

Yes ___  No ___  If no, why?

10. Please provide us with one reference who can speak to your leadership skills/potential. Please provide their name, phone, email, and how they know you (no friends or relatives).

11. PAWs Leaders are expected to be in good standing with the University and strive to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5. Do you meet these requirements, and may we verify that you are in good standing with the Registrar’s Office and Judicial Programs Office? A conduct record or <2.5 GPA will not automatically preclude you from being a PAWs leader. By signing below, you allow us to check both academic and conduct records.

__________________________________________
Print Name

__________________________________________  _________________________
Signature                                  Date