

**Position Title:** River Guide Practicum (Kayak coach)

**Location:** Canmore, Alberta

**Duration:** Spring/Summer 2025 (April 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>, negotiable).

**Hours:** 40 hours per week.

**Reports To:** Director of Operations

**Wage:** \$25/hr

**Position Overview:**

Are you passionate about the outdoors, adventure, and gaining hands-on experience as a river guide? Bow Valley Kayak Club wants to employ and train the next generation of swiftwater kayak guides. This River Guide Practicum offers aspiring guides the chance to develop technical skills, build confidence, and learn the ins and outs of leading safe and memorable river experiences. Participants will receive training and mentorship while assisting our director of operations to organize and provide certified kayak programming on Alberta's rivers. The candidate will begin under close supervision, progressing to more independence throughout the summer.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Assist with trip preparations, including loading/unloading gear, safety checks, and client briefings.
- Assist with administrative and online duties related to operations of the club, including assist with paperwork, including incident reports, trip plans, and EAP's.
- Assist with maintenance and procurement of river kayaks and associated equipment.
- Learn and practice paddling techniques, river navigation, and rescue procedures.
- Actively engage with club members, ensuring an enjoyable and safe experience.
- Participate in pre-trip safety demonstrations and assist in answering member questions.
- Contribute to camp setup, meal preparation, and other logistical support during multi-day trips.
- Adhere to company safety protocols and assist in responding to emergencies if needed.
- Shadow experienced guides to observe best practices in member interaction, river reading, and risk management.
- Respond to routine inquiries and member requests and concerns in a polite, helpful manner that makes them feel valued, respected, liked, and cared for.

- Professionally represent The Bow Valley Kayak Club (BVKC) and Alberta Whitewater Association (AWA) and its Mission, Vision and Values at all times.
- Independently organize and lead trips.
- Instruct beginner and/or intermediate kayakers.

**Qualifications:**

- L2I2 certification preferred, but will train.
- Post-Secondary education in an outdoor guiding related program preferred.
- Valid driver's license and own vehicle (expense reimbursable) or >21 years of age to use club vehicles.
- Good physical fitness and stamina to handle demanding outdoor activities.
- Positive attitude, strong communication skills, and a team-oriented mindset.
- Previous outdoor experience or certifications (e.g., Wilderness First Aid) are a plus but not required.
- Strong literacy and numeracy skills for administrative duties.
- Hands-on proficiency with basic tools preferred.
- Legally allowed to work in Canada.
- RCMP Police check, including vulnerable sector check.

**Additional Notes:**

- Participants should be prepared for extended time outdoors, variable weather conditions, and physically demanding work.
- All necessary training will be provided. We will continue to invest in building your skills, both soft and technical.
- Although this is a temporary position, it will open the door to continuing opportunities with BVKC.