

Youth Initiative High School

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**Youth Initiative High School Expedition Program
Assistant Instructor**

About Youth Initiative High School

The Youth Initiative High School (www.yihs.net) is a unique independent high school with about 60 students located in the heart of the Driftless Area of rural southwestern Wisconsin. YIHS was founded in 1996 out of the collaborative initiative of a pioneering group of students, parents, and teachers. Today, YIHS continues to emphasize the development of student responsibility, initiative, and citizenship in all aspects of school life. Students are full voting members of the school community, serving alongside parents and faculty on the Board of Trustees and on all other committees. YIHS students also take responsibility for raising a significant part of the school's annual budget through a variety of independently organized fundraising activities.

Pedagogically, YIHS takes inspiration from the Waldorf curriculum, which is based on the ideas of Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner (1861 – 1925) and the school is an initiate member of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA). Youth Initiative High School strives to integrate head, heart, and hands into the fabric of school life. On the basis of this philosophy, YIHS pursues a balance of academic rigor in the sciences, humanities, and foreign languages, compassion and cooperation in social life, and creativity and excellence in the practical and fine arts.

YIHS is an independent high school and does not receive substantial funds from federal, state, or local government. YIHS has a strong commitment to making holistic education accessible to all who seek it. Thus, tuition at YIHS is arranged on a flexible basis in order to enable students from families of all income levels to participate in the school, with several students each year working to pay their own tuition. YIHS also has a boarding program that hosts a number of boarding students each year from around the US and the world.

Expeditions at YIHS

At YIHS, we believe in hands-on experiential learning and challenging ourselves to grow. As part of this, each class goes on a week-long expedition every year. Expeditions at YIHS focus on teamwork, building positive class culture and resilience, and deepening connection to the Driftless Region. Hiking, paddling, and winter camping are the

main forms our expeditions take. Expeditions balance travel with campcraft, food preparation, in depth discussions and lessons, journaling, and problem solving.

All School Orientation Trip - Late August. *Community building and tone-setting of the year.*

Freshmen - Early May, backpacking. *Class culture, resilience, expedition mentality.*

Sophomore - Late September, paddling. *Resource management and relationship to earth.*

Junior - Early January, winter camping. *Storytelling and resilience.*

Senior - Early May, backpacking. *Focus determined by Seniors.*

*Preference given to those who can commit to all trips

Assistant Instructor Role

The role of this person is to support the vision and implementation of the expedition curriculum and structure, manage risk effectively in the field, and build rapport and positive relationships with students. Clear communication with co-instructor, a positive attitude, and a willingness to be a good role model to students are key.

Qualifications

Expertise

- Experience working with high school age people
- Experience overnight camping
- Interest in developing outdoor education experience and skills
- Developed leadership sensibilities and willingness to grow and expand leadership skills

Student Relationships

- Able to build rapport and trust with students
- Able to inspire and connect with students on a personal level

Community

- Instructor models strong moral behavior in the field and in the community
- Able to communicate effectively with parents and faculty about expeditions

Logistics

- Sound judgment and decision-making skills
- Physically capable of performing duties of the job

Additional Preferences

- Wilderness First Responder Certified
- Lifeguard training or other relevant trainings
- Knowledge of Driftless Area
- Degree or degree-seeking in outdoor education or environmental sciences
- Connection to YIHS - alumni, faculty, parent, etc.

Compensation:

A full contract with us includes 20 days in the field, 8 days of training, preparation, etc.
\$2980

Further employment opportunities at YIHS possible for the right candidate.

Thank you so much for taking the time to look at our program. We are looking forward to meeting and working with excellent new staff.

