

Youth Initiative High School

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**Youth Initiative High School Expedition Program
Lead 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, 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. YIHS also has a boarding program that hosts a number of 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.*

Lead Instructor Role

Our lead instructors are the backbone of the program and are responsible for successful and safe expeditions. This means effectively facilitating the vision and implementation of the expedition curriculum, managing risk in the field, and building rapport and positive relationships with students. Excellent leadership modeling, clear communication with co-instructor, a positive attitude, and a willingness to be a good role model to students are key.

Qualifications

Expertise

- Wilderness First Responder Certified
- 30+ days of wilderness trip leadership experience
- Extensive experience in outdoor education, experiential learning, adventure education
- Experience and demonstrated ability in risk management in the field
- Able to embody and utilize multiple leadership styles to meet the moment

Student Relationships

- Able to build rapport and trust with students and manage behavior and safety well in the field
- Able to inspire and connect with students on a personal level and motivate them to embrace challenge and grow through adversity

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 logistical decision-making skills
- Physically capable of performing duties of the job

Curriculum

- Experience in creating and/or facilitating lessons and course structure with specific goals in mind

Additional Preferences

- 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 and 8 days of training, preparation, etc. - \$4560

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.

