As a TREK Leader Intern, you will learn and develop the transferable leadership skills through training and real world practice, leading a TREK trip! Your primary responsibility will be to welcome first year UVM students and support them through your wilderness and service experience. Your skill, guidance and experience as a UVM student will provide Trekkies with a meaningful learning opportunity as the newest members of our community. Wilderness TREK leaders work in teams to provide an engaging group experience, introducing incoming UVM classmates to the wilderness areas of Lake Champlain, the Green Mts. and the Adirondacks. Wilderness TREK leaders will be trained and supervised by Assistant Director of Student Life for Outdoor Programs and the Outdoor Programs Coordinator. Wilderness TREK Trips in 2021 will include: Camping, Hiking, Canoeing, Sea Kayaking, SUP boarding, Rock Climbing, and Mountain Biking.

Your Role as a TREK Leader
- Leading with a co-leader to build relationships with participants (TREKKIES) and foster relationships between TREKKIES.
- Act as a resource for TREKKIES to better understand the community values and at UVM.
- Teach wilderness living skills, expedition behavior to foster a Positive Learning Environment (PLE)
- Providing an environment in which students are supported in both physical and emotional needs.
- Effectively manage physical, emotional and social risks specific to first year programming and a wilderness environment

What You’ll get from your internship experience:
- Professional training in outdoor leadership, group management, and decision making skills that are essential to lead a TREK trip and are transferable to fields outside of outdoor leadership
- Professional training in outdoor technical skills
- Wilderness First Aid certification
- Chance to share your unique and diverse UVM experiences with incoming students!
- Amazing working environment (Green Mts., Lake Champlain and Adirondacks)!
- Compensation is based on years of experience leading TREK. Exact compensation for this year is currently being determined. In previous years it has been: Three time returning Wilderness TREK leaders will receive $500, second time leaders $450 and first time leaders will receive $400 for their commitment to TREK.
- Housing and meals provided while on campus and during training.
- TREK leader uniform apparel

Our Expectations for you as an Intern and Leader:
- Complete fulfilment of the terms of the internship: Training, prep work, leading, deissue & final feedback
- A positive, flexible and energetic attitude.
- Ability to commit to TREK full-time with no other commitments from two weeks prior to the first day of classes. No exceptions!
- New TREK leaders must also fully commit to one weekend of TREK in-person spring training, which will occur on 1 of the following 2 weekends: 4/24&25 or 5/1&2
- New TREK leaders applicants who cannot commit to TREK in-person spring training because they are off campus, must be able to commit to arriving 5 days before the standard start of TREK leader expectations. (19 days before the first day of classes)
- Act in a manner that positively reflects on UVM as an institution, TREK as a program and the Outdoor Programs as a subset of the Department of Student Life.
• Appropriately manage the sensitive personal information of your TREKKIES.
• Respond to incidents to the best of your ability, in accordance with your level of medical certification and the provided TREK Training

Minimum qualifications:
• Prior leadership experience
• Commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion
• Ability to assume leadership roles and manage risk.
• Excellent, communication, group facilitation and interpersonal skills.
• Prior wilderness experience and/or an excitement to learn wilderness living and travel skills
• Ability and willingness to obtain Wilderness First Responder (WFR) or Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification before leading TREK OR have current certification in either.
  o WFR is required for head leaders, WFA is required for assistant leaders.
• Ability and willingness to obtain American Red Cross Adult CPR before leading TREK
• If able, UVM van driver certified before TREK (Not required unless you have a driver’s license and clean driving record)

TRAINING INFO

In-Person Spring Training for new TREK Leaders: 1 of the following 2 weekends
4/24&25; 5/1&2

Leader training is mandatory (with the exception of the First Aid & CPR training, for those who already hold certifications), from start to finish. Each day will be between 6- 8 hours of training on a range of skills to prepare you to make others feel comfortable living and traveling in a wilderness setting. This includes interpersonal skills, leadership skills, risk management skills and technical outdoor skills.

TREK Leader Training Dates: 7 days prior to TREK student Arrivals
(Anticipated – August 15th-22nd)

Leader training is mandatory (with the exception of the First Aid & CPR training), from start to finish. Each day will be between 6- 8 hours of training on a range of skills, trip logistics, and other things that will help you get ready to lead TREK. Expect to be tired at the end of each day but energized and prepared to welcome our in-coming first-year students. We will feed you 2-3 meals each day depending on schedule.

TREK Trips: 7 days prior to the first day of classes
(Anticipated – August 22nd-26th)

TREK trips head out after a registration and welcome event in the Davis Center. TREK Leader Interns are expected to be fully committed to facilitating and supporting their trips during five days. On the final day of TREK, trips will do a half-day of leading or travel back to campus to re-enter at a TREK-wide BBQ at the Davis Center. Your responsibilities end once you have cleaned and de-issued equipment and left over food however, your responsibilities to your TREKKIES end at 6pm the day of the final BBQ.
TREK Program Deissue and feedback
(Anticipated – August 27th)

An often overlooked but important activity in the rounding out of TREK, the cleaning and repacking of equipment in the Outing Club house is mandatory for all TREK leaders. The age-old adage of “Many hands make light work,” has never been truer than when this village of leaders gets together to get this task done. This is a mandatory part of this internship program. This includes an opportunity for leaders to meet with TREK admin to give specific feedback on their trip and/or co-leader. And, TREK 2021 will conclude with an opportunity for leaders to give feedback as a group to TREK admin to help improve for next year.

Van Training
We expect all leaders who can to complete van certification before TREK. This is an easy, free, and online-only process. There are two steps, and we ask those offered an internship to start this soon after they are offered a position.

1. Get your motor vehicle record (MVR) checked by May 15th. UVM’s Department of Risk Management and Safety will submit your license info to check your record for eligibility. For most states, this is an online form that will take 1-5 business days after submission. For a few states (e.g., PA or WA) there is an additional form to complete as well. The form is at: uvm.edu/drivers. (if you need to do an additional form, they’ll let you know)
   - You’ll be asked to identify a supervisor/sponsor on the form. The info you need is:
     - Sponsor Name: Megan Meinen
     - Sponsor NetID: mmeinen
     - Sponsor Email: mmeinen@uvm.edu
     - Sponsor Phone: (802) 656-2060

2. After MVR approval, do an online training. You’ll get an email approving you to do the online training and it will include a link. After doing this online training (4-5 hours, which can be done in pieces or all at once), you will be approved to drive university vehicles.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFO

- The TREK staff will communicate with the interns via email over the summer with reminders, packing lists, and other things. If an intern is not accessible by email, we ask for them to let us know what the best way to contact them would be.

QUESTIONS?
If you have questions about the Wilderness TREK program or leader positions, please contact Student Life, Outdoor Programs at 656-2060 or via e-mail at devin.farkas@uvm.edu or mmeinen@uvm.edu. You can also visit the Department of Student Life in Davis Center #310.