

Outdoor Adventure Leadership

Which employers have hired Montana State University Billings Outdoor Adventure Leadership graduates and alumni?

Great Northern Powder Guides	Sea Quest Hawaii	Flaming Gorge Ranger District
Yellowstone Club	Steep World Climbing & Fitness	MSU Billings
Beartooth EMS	Timber Ridge Youth Camp	Alternatives, Inc.
Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park	Eagle Mount Billings	Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch

What are the average annual wages and potential lifetime earnings for professionals working in the Outdoor Adventure Leadership field?

Occupation	Annual Mean Wage in MT*	Potential Lifetime Earnings*
Outdoor Activities Instructor**	\$42,570 - \$46,740	\$45,330 x 39 yrs = \$1,767,870
Activities / Recreation Worker	\$31,920 - \$33,850	\$34,410 x 39 yrs = \$1,341,990
Outdoor Travel Guide	\$32,620 - \$36,270	\$36,060 x 39 yrs = \$1,406,340
Recreation Manager	\$73,580 - \$77,810	\$73,460 x 39 yrs = \$2,864,940
Lifeguard / Ski Patrol / Recreational Protective Service Worker	\$29,000 - \$32,460	\$30,380 x 39 yrs = \$1,184,820

* Based on the 2023 state mean and national median wage of occupation per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Lifetime earnings are based on the national median wage.

** The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics classifies Outdoor Activities Instructors as Self-Enrichment Teachers for wage rate and employment statistics.

*** Wage data is not available in the 2023 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics dataset for some occupations, such as Park Naturalists, Park Rangers, and River Rangers.

What percentage of Outdoor Adventure Leadership graduates report having a job after graduating?

Out of the 33% of 2021 Outdoor Adventure Leadership graduates that we received graduate data on, **100% reported being employed* after graduation.**

* Employment includes employment in major, employment not in major, continuing education, and military service.

Not sure if Outdoor Adventure Leadership is for you?

1. Take an introductory class in the program, such as Foundations of Outdoor Adventure Leadership. Keep mental notes or a journal to track what you like and dislike!

2. Get a part-time job in the field. Check out CareerLink by scanning the QR Code for the latest job openings!



Career & Employment Services

Updated: Summer 2025

E-mail: careers@msubillings.edu Phone: (406) 657-2168

Web: www.msubillings.edu/careers

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE LEADERSHIP

Overview of the OAL program:

This degree combines the study of educational and leadership theory and practices with technical outdoor travel and adventure. Students will acquire and enhance environmental skills and knowledge related to a variety of populations and explore issues ranging from ethical controversies and risk management to program design.

What makes your program unique?

We take our students out of the classroom and into field experiences whenever possible. Many classes have trip or real-life experiences built into them to give our students as much practical hands-on learning as possible.

What students like most about the OAL program:

OAL students love the hands-on and interactive approach to learning. They get the chance to get out of the classroom and into the outdoors for much of their education. Students get to try many different outdoor activities to really see what sparks their interest and imagination.



Program Webpage:

<https://www.msubillings.edu/chps/hshp/outdoor-adventure-leadership/index.htm>

