RECR 190
Service Learning in Recreation Programs

Catalog Course Description:
This course provides students with the opportunity to experience service as a community engagement strategy for national parks, trails, and other protected areas. Integrated learning is coupled with service in a collaborative relationship with a variety of community-based stewardship, citizen science, service learning, and volunteer program managers at various locations. Theoretical and practical aspects of service learning and community-based stewardship occur in classroom and field settings. Students will be involved in planning, implementing, and evaluating selected community-based stewardship, service learning, or volunteer projects. This course includes an on-site field school at the Golden Gate National Parks in San Francisco with pre- and post-trip learning experiences in Chico.

Course Teaching Methods:

1. Class presentations and discussions.
2. Service and/or experiential learning activities.
3. Peer leadership experiences.
4. Structured reflection of experiences on-site and post-activity

Course Core Content and Objectives:
Text readings, in-class discussions, park websites, and guest lectures to provide context for course experiences.

Introduction, practice, discussion, and reflection upon:
- Community based stewardship activities
- Volunteer management
- Field School planning and implementation
- The role of national parks and other protected areas in the development of citizen stewards
- Career opportunities in volunteer management and community-based stewardship

Students:
1. Develop a fund-raising strategy for each term’s field school.
2. Complete at least one multi-day, on-site field school(s) at state/national parks, trails, or other protected areas.
3. Prepare an analysis of volunteer management styles.
4. Create individual entries for a corporately authored topical guide.
5. Participate in research programs about service learning and community based stewardship.