Outdoor Education at BHSU

The Outdoor Education Program at Black Hills State University equips students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities in science, outdoor education teaching methods, adventure programming skills, interpretation and environmental education best practices. Our graduates become leaders at nature centers, conservation organizations, camps, and state and federal natural resource agencies in education and information programs. Our setting in the Black Hills provides many opportunities for outdoor studies, and partnerships with multiple private and public agencies and organizations.

BHSU graduate Jessica Alsaker during her interpretive internship at Mount Rushmore National Monument.

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Equipping future outdoor leaders—you can help!
To Equip Outdoor Leaders—We Need Equipment

There is a growing need for trained professionals in Outdoor Education: Nature centers need naturalists to teach young people to appreciate and value the outdoors. Resource agencies need educators to communicate appropriate land use. Non-profit organizations need advocates skilled in working with people. Parks need interpreters to tell the story. Camps, youth programs, and recreation agencies need leaders skilled in safe outdoor programming. Lodges and eco-tourism organizations need skilled guides. Many jobs exist in the field of outdoor education for people with the right combination of knowledge, skills, and experiences.

Black Hills State University is uniquely situated to provide this training. Our setting in the beautiful Black Hills, the excellent faculty, and many partnerships with area organizations, provide a strong foundation. The potential exists for this program to grow and benefit not only students but the local economy. The State of South Dakota provides revenues equivalent to 55% of total funding for the university. What that means is the program must find additional funding in order to purchase high quality equipment. We need donors like you to help us achieve our mission.

Needs List

- **Project Adventure High Ropes Course**
  Installation of both indoor (field house) and outdoor "elements" ($400 ea.), universal harnesses ($40 ea.), chest harnesses ($30 ea.), ropes ($0.95/ft.; $485/660'spool), helmets ($85 ea.), rescue kit ($400).

- **Environmental Education Program**
  Wildlife education resource kit ($500), water quality monitoring kits ($1000), binoculars ($35--$400 ea.), spotting scope and stand ($1000)

- **Winter Sports**
  Cross country skis, poles, and boots ($210/set), snowshoes ($85--$150 ea.).

- **Indoor Rock Climbing Wall**
  Additional flat panels to expand current wall ($350 ea.), or "real rock" climbing wall ($100,000) for lobby of Young Center.

- **Camping Skills Supplies**
  Tents ($100 ea.), backpacks ($185 ea.), stoves ($45 ea.), orienteering supplies ($375).

- **Aquatic Education Supplies**
  Fly fishing rods/reels ($100 ea.), Passport to Fishing materials kit ($205), Fishing Rods & Reels 12-student set ($175), Life Jacket Set ($50).

- **Paddling Program**
  Canoes ($300--$1000 ea.), kayaks ($350--$1000 ea.), skirts ($30--$100 ea.), helmets ($50--$85 ea.), paddles ($30--$150 ea.), personal flotation devices ($65--$140 ea.)

You Can Help

The BHSU Outdoor Education Program needs your support in the purchase of equipment for Black Hills State University students. Please fill out the form below to make a donation towards these items.

**General Information**

- Name
- Address
- Phone
- E-mail

**Please, dedicate my gift towards the purchase of...**

**My Contribution...**

I would like to contribute $_______ towards the purchase of outdoor education equipment.

**Method of Payment...**

- Check
- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express

**Return Completed Form To...**

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