

the **epic** ADVANTAGE

Student/Faculty Community Project

EPIC ADVANTAGE: Southwest Servant Leadership Expedition

Dates: May 13 - June 10, 2019

Leader: Andy Clifford with Deer Hill Expeditions Staff

Credits: 3 credits (credit/no credit)

Application Deadline: October 15, 2018



Description of Experience:

The Southwest Servant Leadership Expedition is a 4 week EPIC Advantage Project taking place in May-June 2019. The program will focus on Earlham College Outdoor Education's core value of Servant Leadership. Partnered with Deer Hill Expeditions in Colorado, students will receive experiential training as Outdoor Educators, built around a Native American Service Project that will add a cultural/environmental dimension to leadership skills development. After road-tripping out to Colorado, the program will begin with a raft trip on the San Juan river, transitioning to the Hopi Reservation for the service project, and concluding with a student-led backpacking section in the San Juan Mountains.

Deer Hill's Service Projects are well renowned owing to their long term direct relationships with the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes, in addition to US land management agencies (NPS, USFS, BLM). Projects are specifically designed by the families, community leaders, and agencies with which Deer Hill collaborates. This EPIC Advantage program is an exciting community engagement opportunity that is also a great potential pathway to direct career and internship opportunities in outdoor and environmental education.

Location:

San Juan River, San Juan Mountains, Hopi Indian Reservation and Deer Hill Expeditions Basecamp, Mancos, CO

Faculty:

Andy Clifford Director of Outdoor & Environmental Education. Andy joined the Earlham faculty in June 2016, and has led several off campus programs, including August Wilderness (EC's pre-orientation backpacking program in Utah), Expedition Leadership Training (expedition canoeing in Ontario, Canada), and Icelandic Field Studies (EPIC Advantage, 2018). He previously worked as an instructor and program supervisor for NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) in the U.S. and New Zealand. Partnering with Deer Hill Expeditions, Andy is excited to share his outdoor industry experience and earth science background to continue Earlham's trend of developing strong, environmentally and culturally-aware student leaders.

Expectations for Students:

- Students will understand how cultural competency, community service, and practice of environmental stewardship are integral to servant leadership as outdoor educators
- Students will learn advanced technical skills, group facilitation, and risk management strategies appropriate for work as professional outdoor educators

**Preferred skills:**

- Sound basic outdoor living and travel skills (e.g. August Wilderness, Outdoor Trip Leadership (EDUC 221), or equivalent experience from outside Earlham
- Previous/current involvement in service projects/community based learning

This EPIC Advantage Project should appeal to students interested in:

- Integrated Pathways (especially Outdoor Education, Leadership)
- Environmental Sustainability
- Experiential Education
- Student Leadership Positions (e.g. August Wilderness instructor, RA, ESG, sports captain, Bonner scholar, Club/House Convener etc.)

Dates of Experience:

May 13 - June 10, 2019

Travel To and From Site:

This project will start and end on Earlham College campus. Transit to and from the project site will be by 12 passenger van and driving days are integral to the program.

Application Dates:

Applications can be received from students starting on Sept. 15, 2018. Application window closes on Oct. 15, 2018.

Link to Application:

Apply in Handshake

Preparation:

Students will be required to take a 1 credit EPIC Advantage Orientation seminar during the Spring 2019 academic semester. This seminar will provide the necessary background and travel logistics for students to maximize the experience. Class meeting dates/times will be determined in the future.

Student Eligibility:

Rising Sophomores, juniors, or seniors are eligible to apply.

Cost to Student:

This experience is funded as an EPIC ADVANTAGE opportunity. Funding includes travel, room and board, and other expenses required by the program. Passports and immunizations as well as other personal expenses will be covered by students. Students who are accepted and withdraw after January 15, 2019 must reimburse the college for all expenses committed on their behalf.

Program plans subject to change.

Program Policies: <https://earlham.edu/academics/off-campus-study/program-policies/>