



ACA LEAD Program

Austin, TX

Program Overview

The LEAD program provides participants with the opportunity to develop paddlesport skills necessary to be outdoor recreation leaders in their communities and provide representation in paddlesports. The curriculum takes on a multidisciplinary approach and provides training in kayak, canoe, and stand-up paddleboarding, covering rescues, risk management, and technical paddling skills. Additionally, this program focuses on mentorship, relationship building and providing graduates opportunities to continue to grow and evolve as leaders on the water. A core component of the LEAD Program will be the incubation of group culture that helps participants learn, play, and grow their technical and leadership skills in a supportive environment as they work to create inclusive space.

General Program Details

- Dates: October 6-9, 2023
- Location: Texas Rowing Center, Austin, TX
- Lodging is provided for those not local to the area and can be coordinated with Lily Otu

What to expect

- Daily course activities will include an on land instruction and on water instruction.
- We will meet and be on site for class all day, so participants will need to plan for a full day of field work and pack personal belongings accordingly.
- Course activities will take place generally from 9am - 5 pm on most days with an hour set for lunch, so be prepared for a full day of programming.
- Personal items/clothes:
 - Participants should have personal clothing and shoes appropriate for on water activities. This includes closed toe and heel protected shoes, and clothing appropriate for being submerged in water.
 - Synthetic or sports wear is great for this kind of activity but steer clear of cotton!

Program Features

- Watercraft used: kayak, canoe and paddleboard
- Skill development in trip planning and group management
- Leadership Development
- \$40 ACA membership and dues for 1 year
- Upon completion of the course, participants have the opportunity to receive the following certifications or assessments:
 - Paddlesports Safety Facilitator
 - Community Paddlesports Leader Certification
 - Individual craft assessments (canoe, kayak and paddleboard)
- Equipment: equipment will be provided for participants throughout the course including boats, paddles, PFDs and safety equipment.
- Food: Lunches will be provided for participants and will be coordinated with Lily Otu

