



Eligibility for AEE Adventure Education, and AEE Outdoor Behavioral Healthcare Accreditation

Organizations that provide experiential education services are eligible to apply for accreditation. Eligibility is further determined based upon review of the Preliminary Application for Accreditation. During the review of the application AEE will determine whether an organization is an Adventure Program or an Outdoor Behavioral Healthcare Program. Outdoor Behavioral Healthcare Programs utilize licensed mental health professionals as an integrated part of their program. An organization applying for accreditation must meet the following criteria:

1. The organization must operate in a manner consistent with the [AEE Vision and Mission, IDEA Statement](#), and [definition of Experiential Education](#);
2. The organization applying for accreditation does not and shall not discriminate in any of its activities or operations, on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status. These activities or operations include, but are not limited to, hiring, advancement and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision services.
3. The organization must have explicit educational and/or therapeutic program objectives;
4. The organization must offer at least one of the technical activities listed in the current *Manual of Accreditation Standards for Adventure Programs*, or the *Manual of Accreditation Standards for Outdoor Behavioral Healthcare Programs*;
5. The organization must have been in operation for at least one year prior to hosting an accreditation site visit;
6. The organization must be a separately identifiable, entity. Any identifiable entity such as an entire organization or a sub-unit of a larger organization that is governed, managed, or operates independently may be eligible. Criteria used to determine the eligibility of sub-units of larger organizations include physical location; the ability to set policy; the ability to define practice; the ability to budget, manage funds and allocate resources; and the ability to manage personnel.

A determination that the organization is eligible to apply for AEE Accreditation in no way expresses or implies that the organization will meet the requirements for accreditation.

Questions? Please contact:

Steve Pace, M.S.W.

Director of Accreditation and Certification

303-440-8844 x2

accreditation@ae.org