



## Adult Roles

### Chicago Voyagers' Program Leaders

Chicago Voyagers program leaders will lead the overall program. Logistics will be handled by them, as will medical and safety decisions. They will take care of sequencing and timing of the activities in conjunction with the other adults. Teaching the skills and facilitating team building activities are also the responsibility of CV staff, but some of these will be delegated based upon expertise and interest. Group discussions are generally initiated by CV Program Leaders, but facilitating the discussion is a shared task between PLs and Agency Staff.

### CV Program Assistants & Interns

Program assistants and interns help the program leader deliver the program. Program assistants will help teach and also facilitate learning activities. They may take lead or sweep position based upon ability. They engage our youth, encouraging them to participate and make good decisions. They will help with set-up (e.g. climbs) along with prep (not shopping, but the prep that happens 30 minutes before the groups arrive) and clean-up work.

### Agency Staff

Before the program, the agency leader recruits youth, distributes releases and information sheets, contacts families and does the final reminder to youth and families in the days before the program.

Once on program, the agency staff's main role is to participate in the program and to encourage positive engagement of the youth in the program. This can happen through direct encouragement or by setting the example (i.e. being the first to rappel). You can be a great role model by participating in programs where you are not comfortable. During group discussions, agency staff play a key role of helping the youth be open and honest and also connecting youth behaviors, thoughts and feelings with the world back home. Agency staff knows the youth the best and can call them out while they are not being forthcoming, for example. Also, when behaviors arise during the program and these behaviors also are exhibited at times back home, this is the perfect time to intervene and make the connection for the youth.

### Volunteers

A volunteer's job is to support the program objectives (responsibility, empowerment, interpersonal relationship development), be a role model and make an effort to connect with our youth. Volunteers need to support the CV program leaders, especially in the areas of safety. Volunteers participate in experiential learning activities, participating while leaving the leadership to the youth. We wish the youth to take a lead with the activities – holding back, which can be difficult, is necessary to allow the youth the space to lead. Some duties, such as leading the group on a hike or teaching a skill can be delegated to a volunteer by the program leader. Please ask if you are interested in this.

### All Adults

All adults need to help keep the program safe. This means learning about safety and insuring all are following safe practices. It also means stopping our youth from making bad decisions (if no other adults are around, you need to stop them!). Adults need to be role models in sharing themselves if we expect the youth to share themselves. On overnight programs, adults will share being in charge of chores/cooking while being paired with a youth or two.