Hello, I am the Operations Manager for the Recreation Department at Zion Ponderosa Ranch Resort, located right next to Zion National Park in Utah. We are looking for eager and talented employees for our Recreation Department for the 2018 season.

As we like to say in our Recreation Department, "Anyone can be Rec, but Rec isn't for everyone." What we’re seeking is a diverse crew of hungry and safety-oriented people with plenty of common sense, responsibility, and excellent charisma and customer service skills. We provide the proper training and experience for our guides to become experts at anything from guiding ATV and UTV tours, leading guided hikes and canyoneering trips, to running our "Kids Camp" babysitting service, zipline, and bungie trampoline.

A standard week for one of our recreation guides will usually consist of taking a guided hike into Zion National Park, leading multiple ATV or UTV tours, running the zipline, driving a hikers’ shuttle, and if on the night crew, helping out with one of our special evening activities, like playing music around a bonfire, announcing for our rodeo, or directing a stargazing program. We are also implementing a new Jeep tours and overnight backpacking trips as well at our Ranch Resort, so you will have the chance to help build these programs from the ground up. We welcome innovation – if you have an idea for an activity or program, we can work with you to implement said program.

Free housing and utilities are provided at the Ponderosa, in addition to heavily subsidized employee meals ($2 a meal). Pay starts at $7.50/hour for entry-level guides although candidates with certifications such as WFR (Wilderness First Responder) or from the ACA will start higher. Experienced canyoneering guides start at $9.00/hour, and we train and promote standard guides with rope experience (or even quick, proficient learners) to canyon guides if they put in the effort to assist and learn on our canyoneering trips, and meet our internal certification standards and test. We strongly encourage confident and experienced applicants to negotiate for more. While the pay may seem low compared to other summer jobs, free housing and a remote location away from financial distractions go a long way. Additionally, guides should expect to earn at least $100-200 a week from gratuities.

Additionally, Zion Ponderosa is also happy to offer practicum and internship credits as well, with additional responsibilities and learning opportunities available in subjects such as Programming, Experiential Education, Social Media Marketing, and Accounting/Financial. Please inquire about any other internship options that may be available.

Zion Ponderosa Ranch Resort is the perfect base camp for adventurous, outdoorsy people who want a base camp to explore the wonders and riches of southern Utah and northern Arizona. We have trailheads on our property leading into Zion National Park; we are an hour and a half away from Bryce Canyon National Park and Paria Canyon-Vermillion Cliffs National Monument; two hours from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument; and three hours from Capitol Reef National Park. An employee with an interest in hiking, backpacking and camping, canyoneering, and rock climbing will be in heaven.

Any interested students are encouraged to apply online at www.zionponderosa.com/employment/ and email me at recreation@zionponderosa.com. While not required, we would appreciate a cover letter and a link to social media (e.g. Instagram page) to get a sense of personality of our prospective rec guides.

Thank you,

Mason McCord
Operations Manager
Zion Ponderosa Ranch Resort
www.zionponderosa.com/