MIT ENGINEERS™

Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation
120 Vassar Street, W35-297, Cambridge, MA 02139
Phone 617-253-4498 http://web.mit.edu/daper

Physical Education and Wellness Program
Outdoor Education Specialist

DAPER's Shared Purpose and Behaviors

Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation's (DAPER) shared purpose is to bring the MIT community together in educational activities that promote wellness, a diverse and inclusive environment, leadership, teamwork, and the pursuit of excellence through competition, physical activity and recreation. We are committed to the pursuit of excellence by creating an environment that develops community, provides education, inspires leadership, and promotes wellness through the following shared behaviors: DAPER develops community by embracing the uniqueness of each person, working cooperatively, and providing courtesy, respect, and gratitude in all direction.

Background and Mission of the Physical Education & Wellness Program

Physical Education and Wellness (PE&W) is the instructional arm of DAPER; introducing students to a variety of activities to further develop healthy lifestyles. The program offers 6 quarters of activity, including over 20 different courses that reach an average of 1000 students each six weeks. Undergraduates are required to complete 4 courses as part of the MIT general institute requirements. Physical Education & Wellness provides students with the knowledge and skills to lead healthy, active lifestyles, as well as, experience the benefits of social interaction through student-centered instructional physical activity.

Position Description:

Specialist will work closely with the Backpacking team and PE&W office to plan and lead backpacking trips for the students throughout the academic year. Position will aid in contributing to the development of MIT's outdoor education courses and curriculum.

Duties and Responsibilities (include but are not limited to)**:**

- Attend and actively participate in all pre and post trip meetings
- Assist with trip planning and logistics (gear collection and food prep)
- Serve as MIT representative with students, vendors and partners
- Maintain all certifications and training. (CPR, First Aid, AED, Wilderness FA)
- Prepare and submit post-course reports in a timely manner
- Submit incident/accident report forms with proper documentation promptly.
- Stay updated on outdoor trends and practices
- Adhere to MIT policies, procedures, and industry best practices on and off campus
- Engage and motivate student participants (beginner to advanced level participants)
- Follow all MIT Physical Education and Wellness policies and procedures
- Scout, inspect, and prepare course locations/sites and necessary equipment, as needed
- Commit to trip schedule for a minimum of 1 year
- Available as trip specialist back up
- Facilitates assessment for all participants
- Assist with adding to our outdoor education resource library

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2025/2026 Projected Trip Schedule

NH Backpacking- AMC White Mountains (Fall)- Trips days Saturday to Monday; unless otherwise noted

- Sep. 19-21, 2025 (Friday-Saturday)- completed
- Oct. 11-13, 2025 - completed
- Nov. 8-10, 2025- in process

Urban Backpacking- Blue Hills/AMC Ponkapoag cabins (Winter/Spring)- Trips days: Friday to Sunday

- January 30-Feb. 1, 2026
- February 13-15, 2026
- April 10-12, 2026

Administrative Requirements per trip

- 1- hour leader meeting for trip planning
- 2- hour pre-trip meeting with students (leading a portion of the presentation, as needed)
- 1–2-hour gear prep (week of trip)
- 1- hour fitness session lead, if available (training session required prior to leading)

Trip Requirements

- Urban Backpacking
    - Friday at 1p to Sunday at 4p
    - Group leaves campus Friday by 4p and returns Sunday by 4p
    - 2 Specialists (1- driving personal car with gear/2- taking group on train/bus/trail walk)
    - Serves as Outdoor Education Specialist and trip guide
- NH Backpacking
    - Budget rental pick up Saturday by 7:30a and return rental Monday by 7p
    - Student pick up Saturday by 8a on campus and return Monday by 6p
    - Single Specialist driving students in a 12- passenger van
    - Liaison for Physical Education & Wellness with AMC trip guides

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree required
- Valid US Driver's license and vehicle
- First Aid, CPR and AED certification
- Wilderness First Aid certification or willing to obtain prior to leading
- Previous experience in outdoor education and leadership
- Experience teaching outdoor skills; such as: trip planning, leave no trace principles, hiking protocols, backpack packing and gear, fitness preparation, map and compass skills, navigation, building a fire and safety and pitching a tent
- Direct experience and awareness of safety and risk management in outdoor education
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team

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Preferred Qualifications

- Familiarity with backpacking in White Mountains, NH, and Blue Hills, MA, throughout all seasons
- Experience teaching in higher education, including developing learning objectives, using course management systems, and conducting grading and assessments
- Background in leading backpacking trips, clinics, and courses
- Familiarity with the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) and MIT Outing Club (MITOC) organizations.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Customer service experience
- Awareness of and appreciation for individual uniqueness, particularly with diverse and multicultural audiences
- Commitment to student development, leadership, and team building
- Ability to foster a welcoming, inclusive environment for participants and effectively manage group dynamics
- Experience facilitating low ROPES initiatives

Candidates will be required to successfully complete the following upon hiring:

- MIT van safety training
- MIT background check
- Paid training trip(s)

Pay:

- Compensation for administrative tasks and weekend trip will be discussed during the interview process.
- Includes all fees associated with trip(s): lodging, food, transportation, gear (as needed)

Key Contact:
Supervisor: Michele McCauley, Program Manager, Physical Education and Wellness (mdm25@mit.edu)

How to Apply: If you are interested in this position or have any questions, please contact the key contact or physicaleducationandwellness@mit.edu. Resumes and letters of interest are being accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed as they are received.