PAKT: (Parents and Kids Together) is a community based family youth work programme that works with the whole family to support young people to gain the assets they need to be resilient in the face of life’s challenges. It aims to develop social competence, participation, physical well being and spirituality in young people as well as supporting parents in developing relationships with their children that are characterised by warmth and boundary setting. It involves children aged 6 – 17 and their families.

Over recent years YMCA in West Dublin has begun to develop activities focused on using the outdoors as a medium for engaging adolescent boys in particular.

Job Description

“Forest Skills” Youth Worker - Term Time (fixed term)

The post holder will be required to develop and deliver a number of weekly outdoor based activities for young adolescents in the West Dublin area as part of the YMCA PAKT programme. It is anticipated that these will incorporate sporting activities, forest skills, bushcraft and wilderness survival techniques.

Main Tasks

- To identify resources in the immediate West Dublin area that are suitable for use with target group, including carrying out a risk assessment
- To plan and deliver two sessions per week for two groups of 8 young adolescents in liaison with the YMCA PAKT Project Coordinator
- To evaluate and record learning outcomes for the participants.
- To lead a small team of volunteers in planning and delivery of these weekly clubs.
- To attend team meetings and support and supervision sessions as required

Person Specification:

1 Qualifications/Experience

The post holder will have a third level qualification preferably in a relevant field.

The post-holder will have had at least six months combined experience of face to face work with children involving teaching “forest skills” in a voluntary or paid position.
2 Abilities and Skills

The post-holder:

- Will be able to develop and maintain relationships with boys aged 9 to 14.
- Be able to manage challenging situations if they occur within the group and demonstrate solution focused methods of working with young people.
- Be competent in liaising with parents when necessary.
- Have strong interpersonal, communication skills, have enthusiasm and energy and be comfortable working through the medium of outdoor sport activities and forest skills with groups of up to 8 boys some of whom have displayed challenging behaviours.
- Be available to work for five post school hours once a week while schools are open
- Preferably have a full driver’s licence.

Relationships

The post-holder will be directly responsible to, supported and managed by the YMCA PAKT Project Worker.

Terms and Conditions

The “Forest Skills” Youth worker position is fixed term, term time post to end of June 2019. It may be renewed subject to funding

The post will involve approximately 5 hours per week during school terms