

Austin Souto

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EDUCATION

Ph.D Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management

Currently Enrolled

Clemson University, Clemson, SC

- GPA: 4.0/4.0

M.A. Christian Formation and Ministry, concentration in Outdoor Adventure Leadership

2015

Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

- GPA: 3.78/4.0

B.A. Psychology and Christian Education, double major

2009

Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

- GPA: 3.42/4.0

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Assistant Director of Outdoor Recreation

July 2017 - Present

Outdoor Recreation Coordinator

June 2016 – June 2017

Clemson University, Clemson, SC

- Managed the university's outdoor recreation program, which provided guided outdoor recreation experiences, outdoor equipment rentals, and a bike shop for Clemson students and staff, as a part of Campus Recreation and the Division of Student Affairs
- Served over 2,000 students per year on over 100 different trips
- Sold an average of 1,500 unique rentals to students each year
- Collaborated on the planning and oversight of the development of a \$12,000,000 recreation site, including the construction of a new outdoor recreation facility, sport fields, picnic areas, trails and waterfront access (beach development, dock construction, etc.)
- Recruited, hired, trained, and provided leadership and professional development for 1 graduate assistant, 25 undergraduate student staff, 1 undergraduate intern, and 1 graduate intern
- Provided leadership and expertise in support of the climbing wall and its associated programs
- Managed an annual budget of \$140,000

Wilderness Program Manager

March 2013 – May 2016

Sky Ranch Ute Trail, Powderhorn, CO and Dallas, TX

- Directed a wilderness and adventure program in Colorado that served up to 600 people a summer
- Trained summer staff in an experiential program model that focused on personal growth and community building through adventure challenge experiences in the outdoors that involved backpacking, mountaineering, kayak touring, rock climbing, and challenge courses
- Oversaw all of the operational, programmatic, human resource, marketing and sales efforts for the program
- Doubled the size of the program in less than 2 years
- Created a 250+ page program manual outlining all philosophical and operational aspects of the program

Rock Wall Supervisor

December 2012 - April 2013

LifeTime Fitness, Schaumburg, IL

- Oversaw the daily operations of the rock climbing facility including member relations, equipment management, program sales, class instruction, interdepartmental communication, and staff training
- Supervised a staff of 13 people
- Increased revenue by spearheading major changes in staff training and programming to increase the frequency of and level of professionalism in climbing classes offered

Retreat Coordinator and Climbing Wall Supervisor

November 2011 - May 2012

Wheaton College and HoneyRock Camp, Three Lakes, WI

- Directed multiple camp programs and teaching sessions during 2-5 day retreats for church and school youth groups
- Oversaw the training of camp staff in small-group based curriculum
- Designed leadership and community enhancing program elements for each retreat such as challenge courses, team games, and small-group discussions/debriefs
- Improved the quality of the camp's rock climbing facilities through overseeing the remodeling of the indoor gym, replacing outdated gear and systems, and establishing new regulations of conduct for using the climbing facilities
- Trained camp staff in the updated use and management of the climbing facilities, with a focus on improving the staff's skills in safety and group facilitation

Senior Instructor and Development Assistant

May 2009 - August 2012

Solid Rock Outdoor Ministries, Laramie, WY

- Generated and implemented specific programs for 3 to 40 day wilderness expeditions including food preparation, gear organization, itinerary creation, lesson planning, ration systems, and risk management
- Created AEE accredited, experience-based curriculum aimed at facilitating spiritual growth, character formation, leadership development, authentic community, and skills acquisition
- Administered the necessary medical treatment in a calm and quick manner to an injured student while managing the dynamics of a group in crisis 20 miles from a trailhead
- Cultivated an environment that fostered the holistic growth of students through forming positive relationships, teaching group lessons, maintaining safety, managing interpersonal conflict, briefing and debriefing activities and events, providing spiritual direction and mentoring
- Supervised the development of multiple seasonal staff members in their proficiency in various hard, soft, and meta skills concerning wilderness programming and leadership
- Conducted professional marketing programs around the country that were responsible for the acquisition of new major contracts with multiple institutions
- Recruited multiple students into summer programs, bringing in excess of \$50,000 to the organization
- Managed fundraising initiatives to raise personal support for the position

Adventure Tour Guide

September 2010 - May 2011

Arizona Outback Adventures, Scottsdale, AZ

- Conducted team-building events for corporate retreats and conferences
- Guided multiple tours of the Sonoran Desert, giving lectures on the history, botany, zoology, and geology of the local area
- Responded to backcountry medical situations, ensuring proper treatment and safe return of clients

CERTIFICATIONS

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| • Wilderness First Responder | <i>Wilderness Medicine Institute</i> |
| • LNT Master Educator | <i>Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics</i> |
| • First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor | <i>American Red Cross</i> |
| • Wilderness Remote and First Aid Instructor | <i>American Red Cross</i> |
| • Leave No Trace Trainer | <i>LNT Center for Outdoor Ethics</i> |
| • ACCT Level 1 Challenge Course Practitioner | <i>Adventure Experiences Inc.</i> |
| • Training Equivalent of ACCT Level 2 Advanced Instructor | <i>ChallengeQuest</i> |
| • Level 4 Outdoor Instructor | <i>Solid Rock Outdoor Ministries</i> |

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- 6000+ hours backcountry experience (2 – 40 day trips)
 - Locations: AZ, IL, CO, WY, NC, SC, WI, MI, GA, TN, WA
- Highly skilled in the areas of: backpacking, rock climbing, mountaineering, and fly fishing
- Skilled in the areas of: white water kayaking, white water rafting, sea kayaking, canoeing, high-angle rescue, canyoneering, caving, winter camping, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing
- Proficient in Spanish
- Skilled in Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Suite, Fusion, EMS, CircuiTree, and Google Apps Suite
- Skilled musician (guitar, drums, bass, piano)

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education
- Wilderness Education Association
- Christian Adventure Association
- The Academy of Leisure Sciences

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- Guest Writer, www.outdoorleaders.com
 - *Facilitation: Do You Teach in the Outdoors or use the Outdoors to Teach?*
 - *Hiring Great Outdoor Ministry Leaders: What's Hard About Hard Skills*
- Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Discussion Facilitator, NIRSA SC Workshop 2016
- Attendee, AORE Conference 2016
- Lead Presenter, AORE Conference 2017
 - *Paperless and Productive: Creating an Internal Website for Your Outdoor Program*
 - *The Right Person for the Job: Matching Program Needs with Staff Skills*
- Member, Campus Recreation Associate Director of Operations Screening Committee 2017
- Member, Campus Recreation Risk Management Committee 2018

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- Small Group Leader, *Preston Trail Community Church*, Frisco, TX 2014-2015
- Search and Rescue Volunteer, *Hinsdale County EMS*, Lake City, CO 2015
- Search and Rescue Volunteer, *Oconee County EMS*, Walhalla, SC 2016
- Youth Group Leader, *Mountain Lakes Church*, Clemson, SC 2016-2017