

Tanya S. Miller

SUMMER PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Simultaneously to running Trailwise Guides, in 2010, I was presented with the opportunity to assist SOS Outreach in re-organizing and developing the summer camping and backpacking programs for their year round, values based leadership program. Over a period of four years I crafted a developmental model that supports the summer touchpoint for SOS Outreach's underserved youth. The summer offerings complete a yearly cycle in what is a four year, multi-level program designed to give youth the foundations they need to become servant leaders. Working with ages eight to eighteen, the design of summer programming works with the mental and physical development of a youth as they grow into young adulthood.

What for years, were the underpinnings of Trailwise Guides success, became the applied systems in strategic planning, execution, and creativity for SOS Outreach. Today, thousands of youth have been served by this model. Its integration into the culture of SOS Outreach occurred through collaborative efforts with the executive director, program directors, program staff, and field instructors. Youth from Denver, Summit County, Leadville, and Eagle County are the recipients of this year round programming.

SOS Outreach's summer programming is a unique blend of youth development and outdoor experiential education. Few organizations in the country serve in this capacity, where saturation and duration provide lasting impacts to the youth we serve. Within this intersection, is the logistics and staffing needed to implement safe and impactful programs. Beyond building infrastructure, most of my director's role was in management of program calendars, field instructors and program staff. Providing day and multi-day programs comes with a myriad of details, each requiring individual attention as well as whole system integration. SOS Outreach's summer programs, in many ways is a business within a business. From this perspective I oversaw everything from job hiring, to budget management, to field safety, to permit administration, to program design.

ADMINISTRATION

- Federal Agency Permit Relations (USFS & BLM)
- Permit Administration Reports & Operation Plans
- Operational Systems
- Day to Day Management
- Employment Manuals

FIELD INSTRUCTORS & PROGRAM STAFF

- Human Resources
- Risk Management
- Wages & Timesheets
- Logistics
- Culture (Values & Mission)
- Purpose
- Training (Administrative, Risk, and Backcountry Skills)
- Professional Development
- Communications Between Offices

PROGRAMS

- Program Design & Development
- Program Execution
- Systems & Logistics
- Gear Management
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Collateral Materials
- Staff Briefing & De-briefing

FINANCE

- Program Budget
- Invoicing and Participant Tracking
- Cost Analysis