

Central California Adaptive Sports Center, Shaver Lake

Abstract:

For my Leadership in Recreation class, I chose the Central California Adaptive Sports Center to complete my service-learning hours. With the CCASC, I was able to take part in their outdoor recreation program on an overnight trip where I helped make paddle boarding, kayaking, hiking, and fishing more accessible to participants with disabilities.

Real-World Application:

Through my experience with the CCASC, I developed many outdoor skills I hadn't possessed prior to the program. I learned how to break down and put together a fishing pole, as well as handling live bait. I also had the privilege of learning how to build a floating metal contraption that allowed a participant who was wheelchair bound to be able to paddle board. Seeing the participant being able to experience paddle boarding again was special as he will carry the joy he felt with him in this experience and now approach limitations with a sense of hope and confidence. The application of learning our types of leadership skills from my leadership course was heavily present in my experience with the program. I was able to step out of my comfort zone while handling the live bait but also step into my confidence as I was guiding a participant on the kayak.



Kiersten Gonzalez

RA 73S, Professor Ruiz , 28 hours

Community Impact:

Being able to witness the special moments participants felt when they were able to do something they loved again made me feel special and privileged to see. The effect this program leaves on the families as well as the participants is carried after the program as they are left feeling confident that outdoor activities and other daily actions are possible, just adapted! Both the staff and participants' positive energies bounced off of one another allowing me to leave the camp with a better understanding of how we can make adaptations to push the limitations imposed on our disabled community members.

Community Service and Service-Learning Showcase