

# Brown Outing Club New Leader Information

**\*We highly recommend reading through this document prior to filling out the application!\***

## What is the BOC?

The Brown Outing Club's [mission](#) is to create opportunities for the Brown community to access the outdoors, meet new people, and build inclusive communities. We run weekly off-campus trips including activities such as hiking, backpacking, trail running, skiing, cycling, kayaking, and canoeing. We also organize short excursions on and around campus to explore the surrounding areas and facilitate on-campus events, such as hosting speakers and holding outdoor skills workshops. We use our funding to offer need-blind, no-questions-asked financial aid for all participants. Additionally, the BOC manages a gear room in the basement of Faunce, where we rent out outdoor recreation equipment (tents, backpacks, warm clothes, etc). The BOC is run by a core executive board (E-Board) of students who plan and lead all of our trips and events. These E-Board positions are advertised via our listserv and other means to all members of the Brown community.

Below: An example of a winter summit hike with 25 participants (+6 BOC leaders)!



# Why should I apply to be a BOC leader?

- You will develop abilities as a **group facilitator and organizer**.
  - These skills include effective listening, conflict resolution, group reflection, and keeping track of details.
- You will **provide a service to the Brown community**, giving students (and yourself) an opportunity to get off campus, exercise, and meet new people—all in ways that are inexpensive or free to Brown students.
  - Getting outside **eases stress** and **makes us happier!**
- You will learn the skills of **outdoor education and leadership** including:
  - technical skills like first aid, bear-bagging, how to use a camp stove, and navigation (just to name a few!).
  - abilities in team-building, risk management, and managing group dynamics.
  - awareness how race, sex, class, and ability affect group dynamics and comfort in the outdoors.
  - Wilderness first aid
- You will join an active community of students working to **make the outdoors more inclusive and accessible** for people of all backgrounds.
- It's a lot of **FUN!!!!**



# What does a BOC leader do?

- New leaders participate in an orientation that introduces them to the club, builds leadership skills, and teaches the ins-and-outs of leading trips. They are paired with experienced leaders who assist them in running their first trip.
  - This orientation assumes **NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE with outdoor recreation** and serves as the beginning for an ongoing process of teaching outdoor skills.
  - BOC leaders are also **required** to get a Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification through the club, at no cost, during one of the first weekends of the semester.
- **Leader Responsibilities**
  - Lead 2 trips every semester (in pairs with other leaders; leaders choose which trips they run).
  - Attend and actively engage in E-Board meetings one evening each week for 1.5 hours. (Mondays, usually between 7 and 10 pm depending on the semester)
  - Participate in leader training (about 6 hours over the course of the first semester, about 2 hours throughout later semesters).
  - Attend the BOC E-Board camping retreat each semester (1 weekend).
  - Be willing and able to support other leaders as needed; to put in the work and step up when other leaders need help planning, an extra leader to attend a trip, or anything else.
  - Support the club with various tasks and responsibilities, such as organizing the retreat or connecting with other student clubs. This may also be achieved through engagement with committees such as Outreach, Diversity & Inclusion, and Risk Management.
  - Support the club by helping host on-campus events, managing gear room hours, and attending activities fairs.
  - Commit to BOC's mission of inclusivity, diversity, and accessibility
- **Leader Commitment**
  - Once accepted, you are a BOC leader for the rest of your time at Brown! Woohoo! You can “freeze” your leadership for one semester to study abroad, take leave from Brown, or otherwise take a break. Unless you quit or are asked to leave (a rare occurrence), BOC will be a big part of your Brown experience <3.

**\*Please note that this is a significant time commitment. We ask that you assess your capacity and plan accordingly. We are looking for leaders who will be committed to the club, and who will stick with the club for a few years. Although we have a large E-board, each leader matters a lot, so your commitment to the BOC is an important consideration. Your excitement about BOC, and ability to commit to learn with us, do the work, and grow with the club is more important than your previous experience.\***



## **What is the difference between the BOC and BOLT?**

The Brown Outdoor Leadership Training (BOLT) is a student-run program that trains its leaders to lead a week-long backpacking trip in the White Mountains of New Hampshire for incoming sophomores and transfer/RUE students. While being a BOLT and BOC leader each provide you with similar training and skills, the BOC puts on a wider variety of outdoor activities open to all members of the Brown community throughout the course of the whole semester. BOLT focuses on peer-to-peer mentorship and building longer-term communities, which while important to the BOC, is not our main focus. Many BOC leaders are also BOLT leaders—you can do both at the same time!

# What are we looking for in new BOC leaders?

A large part of being a leader on our trips is making participants feel welcome, comfortable, and at-ease. If you're good at working with other people and groups, you'll make a perfect BOC leader. We're looking for applicants who are kind, empathetic, and care about getting Brown students outdoors! We want folks who are excited to learn the skills and techniques of the activities we practice and the art of planning and organizing trips. We care about your commitment to the club. Although we have a large eboard, each leader matters a lot, so your commitment to the club is an important consideration. Much of our work is collaborative, so we also ask that our leaders enjoy working in partnerships and teams. Experience as a facilitator, leader, or counselor in any setting is a plus! We are NOT exclusively looking for people who self-identify as 'outdoorsy' or have grown up hiking or climbing! Our focus is on opening up outdoor spaces to people of all backgrounds and identities. We want leaders who will challenge themselves to take this on: people who are actively thinking about barriers to access and want to join us in creating an inclusive environment.



**Questions? Reach out to the BOC at [outing@brown.edu](mailto:outing@brown.edu)!**