

## **Disability Outreach Center Able to Paddle Event**

### **Background and Context:**

The Disability Outreach Center works on creating events for people with disabilities at WWU, while partnering with WWU clubs/offices and the Bellingham Community. The Disability Outreach Center was interested in having an event for people with disabilities to be given the opportunity to kayak and participate in the outdoors. This would be a targeted event for only people with Disabilities, with the exception of volunteers. 2015-2016 Coordinator Annika Fleming researched companies that could help people with disabilities kayak. After extensive research Fleming found and contacted Outdoors for All, a company that helps people with disabilities do outdoor activities.

### **Summary of Proposal:**

In the proposal you will find the reasoning on why the Disability Outreach Center thinks the Able to Paddle event will benefit WWU and the Bellingham community with this event being a targeted event for students with disabilities. This will include what the event will entail, and the amount of money this event will cost. As well as the partnering offices and programs.

### **Fiscal Impacts:**

This event will cost approximately \$650 that will be taken from the Disability Outreach Center budget of FXXDOC. \$350 of this money will be used to pay for Outdoors for All company. \$100 will be used to pay for snacks and drinks at the event. \$200 will be used for volunteer shirts.

### **Event Summary:**

The event is May 13, 2017 at the Lakewood facility from 11am-3pm. At this event the company Outdoors for All will help people get in and out of kayaks and give a small demonstration on how to kayak. If there are people who cannot hold a paddle, Disability Outreach Center volunteers will get in the kayak with them. These volunteers will be trained on what to do while kayaking. While people are waiting to Kayak, the Outdoor Center will be leading accessibility games and activities. Before and/or after the event Outdoors for All will also be training Outdoor Center student and professional staff, Recreational Therapy majors, and more. The training is happening so that Lakewood will be accessible throughout the entire year, and Outdoors for All will not have to be rehired.

### **Impact at Western:**

The Disability Outreach Center thinks this event will greatly benefit WWU and the Bellingham community greatly. This is because the event will be the first opportunity for people with physical disabilities to go to Lakewood and participate in outdoor activities. This event will also ensure that Lakewood will be accessible to all in the future through the training explained above, and the purchase of equipment. Allowing people with disabilities to access Lakewood

will increase Lakewood income, help de-stigmatize disability, and create an outdoor experience for all.

**Offices and Community Partners involved:**

Already Confirmed:

Disability Outreach Center

Outdoor Center

Recreation Department

Special Education Department

Veterans Outreach Center

Social Issues and Resource Center

Queer Resource Center

Womxns Resource Center

ARC of Whatcom County

Possible:

Max Higbee Center

Bellingham School District

Counseling Center

Equal Opportunities Office

Brigadoon Dogs