**Tikchik Narrows Lodge**

**Guide Trainee**

**2015 Job Description / Requirements**

This is an entry level position, offering training and supervision for individuals to learn to be accomplished guides. While this is not a full time guide position, it is an opportunity for those individuals who are aggressive and possess exceptional fishing skills to gain experience and return the following season as a full time guide. Tikchik is a complex operation. We have as many as 8 guides stationed in “out camps”. These guides live on the river and we fly the anglers out to them each day. We accommodate 24 anglers per week, except for the first and last weeks in the season. On any given day we will use 12 guides, assisting two anglers per guide. We employ 14 guides. Each day we will have two guides not guiding.

However, on some days we are either not scheduled to go to a certain camp or weather does not permit us to fly there. On those days we can find ourselves short of guides because of the non-utilized guides in the out camps. That is where the guide trainees come in. We have 3 guide trainees that back up the full-time guides. Guide trainees go through our guide training and have supervision during the early part of the season. We have a guide trainee work with a veteran guide, with the trainee running a boat while the experienced guide supervises and assists the trainee.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Guide trainees are required to have a current American Red Cross (or equivalent) First Aid and CPR card.

Good communication skills, sound work ethics, service oriented, and self-motivated.

Healthy, physically fit, clean appearance, drug-free, and non-smoker.

Must have extensive knowledge in fishing techniques, and be able to demonstrate the ability to teach others in a comprehensive manner.

Guide trainees must purchase a State of Alaska Sport Fishing License, which is $24 for residents and $145 for non-residents, and a State of Alaska Guides License $50

Possess a US Coast Guard Limited Waters of Western Alaska License. (Tikchik Narrows Lodge will assist you in securing this documentation.) This license requires 120 days of boat operating experience in the last 10 years, a physical, drug screening and pass a two-day course. ***We assist*** with getting the license, and drift boat experience can count for 30 days of the boating requirements.

**Note – If you have had a DUI (Driving under the influence) or DWI (Driving while intoxicated) you will not be able to get a USCG License so please do not apply.**

You can go to the USCG web site to download the application. They are very thorough. Go to the Fishing Guide section http://www.homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/home.do.

The Alaska license is not specifically mentioned on the national web site, but the forms and checklist are the same. You can fill out the application, Sea Service form (you only need 120 days in the past 5 years), get a physical – make sure the doctor fills out everything including corrected vision. Send in a copy each of your proof of citizenship, First Aid and CPR card. You must send the paperwork to the Anchorage Regional Exam Center. They will send you a notice and you can go to your closest USCG Regional Exam Center. They can fingerprint you and verify your identification. They will send the results to the Anchorage Exam Center.

New hires can sign up for the 2-day course in Anchorage when they come up for employment. You get a test after the 2-day course and if you can spell your name correctly, you can pass the test. Then you go to the Anchorage USCG Exam Center and turn in your certification of completion of the course. Then it takes 2 to 3 weeks to get your license.

The web sites for the courses are www.Alaskawatersconsulting.com (preferred) and www.aknauticaltraining.com.

**SALARY:** $1,700 per month plus:

**ROOM & BOARD:** Included as part of your salary. (This does not include personal items, toiletries, medicines, etc.) Other than getting to Anchorage, Alaska, your only living expenses while at the lodge will be personal items.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** While at the lodge, the guides/crew will be housed in cabins or rooms with bath facilities. Laundry facilities are provided for the guides along with bedding and towels.

**EMPLOYEE MEALS:** Our staff enjoys hearty meals served buffet-style in the crew dining room. Some of our guides and pilots will be asked to dine in the main dining room with the guests a night or two each week. There are always snacks, cookies and other baked goods available for the staff.

**TIPS:** Our guests stay for an entire week and we recommend that they do not tip during the week, but leave their tip at the end of their stay. The tips are pooled together and divided amongst the crew equally. Pilots, guides, chefs and lodge staff all make the same amount. Last season the gratuities were over $4,000 for the full season.

**DATES OF EMPLOYMENT:** Be available for the entire season from approximately mid-June through mid-September. Actual dates will be determined during interview.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Our employees are required to pay their own transportation to and from Anchorage, Alaska. We understand the initial cost of getting to Anchorage, and have a program to provide assistance with transportation. We can pay for your airline ticket and then deduct the cost from your paycheck. Tikchik provides transportation to and from Anchorage and the lodge.

**DAILY SCHEDULE:** Breakfast is served at 6:30 am each morning. Our crew is expected to be at breakfast on time. Guide trainees, when not guiding, will be available to help out with the aircraft, boats, etc. as soon as breakfast is finished. The guests depart the lodge at approximately 8:00 am each morning, heading for our fishing destinations by plane or by boat. At that time, the Camp Manager will assign duties to ground crew and guide trainees for the day. Crew lunch is served at the lodge around noon.

Each day we return to the lodge with the fishermen between 4:30 pm and 6:00 pm. Dinner is generally served to the guests and the crew at 7:00 pm. When we return to the lodge in the evenings, we have airplanes to unload, fish to take care of, and equipment to put away. These duties are carried out by ground crew and guide trainees. Our crew does put in very long days.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** We require our crew to present themselves in a professional manner at all times. Our guests arrive on Saturday and depart the following Saturday. This means that we always have guests at the lodge. We will operate with a full guest schedule for 15 weeks straight. Guide trainees will be working on various projects such as chopping wood, maintenance, repairs, or whatever is necessary when not guiding. They will most likely be guiding each Saturday afternoon and also on days when the planes cannot fly due to low ceilings.

**ATTITUDE:** Our guides and crew have very high guest exposure positions. It is important that our personnel enjoy people and enjoy showing the guests a good time. The macho guide or the mountain man attitude is not what we are looking for. We are looking for guides who can share knowledge in a positive format of encouragement, reinforcement and style. We would like all of our personnel to have a positive attitude, show extraordinary manners, and be courteous at all times.

**EQUIPMENT:** We operate numerous 18 foot flat bottom river boats with 25 to 50 hp outboards. Each day of guiding you will be operating a boat. Boating safety and handling is an everyday responsibility.

**FLYING:** We are a daily fly out lodge. Our crew should not have a fear of flying or get air sick easily.

**SPECIAL NOTE: Dogs, cats and other pets are not allowed.** We do not have the accommodations or the facilities to accommodate pets.

**TIKCHIK NARROWS LODGE IS ONE OF THE FINEST SPORTFISHING OPERATIONS IN THE WORLD. WE HAVE THIS REPUTATION BECAUSE OUR EMPLOYEES ARE DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS. DRUGS, SMOKING, ALCOHOL ABUSE AND “PARTYING” WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!**

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