



Chase at the
Challenge Course
"Office"

Chase Buffington
Director
Cispus Learning Center

TYPE OF WORK

I oversee general operations, the physical facility, and improve working relationships with customer groups using our experiential education programs.



Director Cispus Learning Center



TYPICAL DAY: I touch base with lead staff; maintenance supervisor, kitchen manager, program coordinator, and business manager. I attend breakfast to check in with customers and build a rapport. Then comes office time: answering e-mails, returning phone messages, and working on articles for our magazine or newsletters. My day to day joy is public relations; making meaningful connections with agencies, schools, contractors, and program developers. I also enjoy the intricacies of effectively using marketing platforms and serving those in need through our foundation.

CAREER PATHWAY: I started in the fields as a Christmas tree farmer at 13 and worked my way up to foreman in high school. At college I discovered Outdoor Recreation Management. It took me up mountains, down rivers, into rock climbing, kayaking, snow sports, and more. Experiential education truly triggered me. Using a challenge course to facilitate groups through activities that develop leadership, communication, trust building, and cohesive team development. It was from this work I moved into business applications and marketing of experiential education.



IMPORTANT SKILLS

- Public relations
- Food handlers card in case a staff member gets sick and 400 sack lunches need to be packed before noon.
- Challenge Course
- Management Certification

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree, Outdoor Recreation Management

SALARY RANGE

\$75,000-\$99,999

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

A hard hat and tool belt or a suit depending on the day. Dedication to serve in whatever role is needed and to make every employee feels they are moving toward their goals and growing.

"I enjoy seeing customers and staff grow with positive experiences. That their time in the outdoors is meaningful and memorable.." - Chase Buffington