

Utah Avalanche Center

2024-2025 Internship Program

Position Description



The Utah Avalanche Center (UAC) is a cooperative effort between the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Utah Avalanche Center and the United States Forest Service Utah Avalanche Center. Our mission is to keep people on top of The Greatest Snow on Earth® by providing avalanche forecasting, education, and awareness throughout Utah. We have offices in Logan, Salt Lake City, Spring City, and Moab.

The UAC offers a variety of resources and education opportunities for those interested in learning about avalanche safety. The Know Before You Go (KBYG) program provides a free, one-hour presentation to schools and the public, offering basic avalanche awareness through multimedia learning. This program is attended by around 10,000 Utah residents each year.

For those looking for more in-depth education, the UAC offers affordable avalanche classes both in the classroom and on-snow. These classes cover various topics, including Backcountry 101, Backcountry 201, Motorized 101, and Introduction to Avalanche Rescue.

The UAC also serves as the go-to resource for avalanche information in Utah, working closely with all types of winter backcountry users and local and national media. The center maintains one of the most comprehensive avalanche websites in the United States, providing up-to-date information for anyone who needs it.

In addition to their educational offerings, the UAC hosts the annual Utah Snow and Avalanche Workshop and collaborates daily with local ski resorts, the Utah Department of Transportation, ski-guiding operations, search and rescue, law enforcement, and event organizers to share current information and training opportunities. With our wealth of resources and partnerships, the UAC is a crucial hub for avalanche safety in Utah.

UAC Internship Program Overview

The UAC provides unique internship opportunities for individuals to become part of a small team with a wide range of duties. We are looking for graduate, undergraduate, and post-graduate students from fields such as Communications, Marketing, Outdoor Education, Parks and Recreation, and Business. Candidates are expected to work independently, be self-motivated, take on last-minute tasks, be available for long days, and maintain a positive attitude while interacting with other UAC employees and the community.

The internship workload is focused on the nonprofit side of the UAC and does not include on-snow work with avalanche forecasters, observers, and staff. On-snow opportunities can arise depending on individual interns' qualifications, capabilities, and interests. Interns may have the opportunity to shadow Forest Service and nonprofit avalanche forecasters during fieldwork at the discretion of the forecaster. Internship duties range from community outreach, avalanche awareness presentations, assisting with delivery of on-snow avalanche education classes, helping maintain the online store, organizing the office, and assisting with fundraising events.

UAC internships begin August 5 and continue through mid-April. The internship is a full-time role with hourly pay. Workload varies throughout the season, and while some weeks can be slow, others may require working 40 hours a week. The intern selection process will be completed by the end of June.

Job Responsibilities:

- Provide back-office support to the UAC's programs.
- Attend the Backcountry Benefit and other fundraising events, carrying out tasks including but not limited to raffling donated items, merchandise sales, event set-up and tear-down, accounting for revenue, and managing credit card purchases.
- Provide support with administrative and fundraising tasks, such as thanking donors, entering data, and aiding the Development Director in fundraising initiatives and activities.
- Represent the UAC at awareness events. Interact with the public, answer questions regarding avalanche awareness, and spread the organization's mission.
- Represent the UAC independently at information tables at small events such as ski swaps, retail shop sales, and outreach events.
- Assist with the delivery of the UAC's Trailhead Avalanche Awareness Program, which is held on weekend mornings.
- Assist in the fulfillment of online orders and membership gifts.
- Assist as needed in weather station and trailhead sign deployment and maintenance.
- Attend avalanche classes to assist with instruction and course logistics.
- Present the Know Before You Go program to students and adults across Utah.
- Assist with social media accounts and content gathering (photos, videos, and messages that support the mission of the UAC).
- Attend monthly UAC Board meetings.

Requirements

- Interns must have strong written and verbal communication skills and be confident interfacing with the public, both one-on-one and in large group settings.
- Interns must be proficient in using basic avalanche rescue and backcountry travel gear.
- Interns need to have sufficient physical fitness to spend a day backcountry skiing, split-boarding, or snowmobiling.
- Interns must be 21+ years of age due to events and venues requiring age restrictions.
- Interns must have reliable transportation to carry ski equipment and other necessary gear in winter conditions.
- Interns must be an expert-level skier or split boarder with extensive backcountry experience sufficient to travel safely alone or with others in avalanche terrain.
- Interns must have at least a Recreation Level 1 avalanche education certification (Recreation Level 2 preferred).
- Interns must have a current Basic First Aid and CPR certification to be paid for assisting field classes. A WFR, Advanced First Aid, or EMT certification is preferred.

Pay and Benefits

Interns receive an hourly rate of \$15/hr. Additional benefits include mileage reimbursements, eligible expense reimbursements, and industry pro deals with participating partners.

How to Apply

Interested applicants can send a resume and cover letter as PDFs to McKinley Talty at education@utahavalanchecenter.org using the subject line "2024-2025 Internship Application".