



UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

TRAILBLAZER LEADER JOB DESCRIPTION

UNE's New Student Orientation Program assists incoming first year and transfer students, and their families, with successfully transitioning to the UNE community. Serving as a Trailblazer Orientation Leader (TB OL) is an opportunity for you, as a current student, to support your incoming peers while also developing leadership skills, increasing your knowledge of the outdoors, and building connections that will last your lifetime.

Qualifications

- Applicants must be enrolled in an undergraduate degree program at UNE and have completed one semester of coursework on campus.
- Good academic and conduct standing with a cumulative GPA of 2.25 or higher.
- Relate well with students, parents, faculty, and staff.
- Sincerity, reliability, responsibility, confidence, flexibility, a willingness to help, and strong interpersonal communication skills.
- Show a desire to learn about the University of New England and its programs and policies and show an intention to promote UNE positively.
- Full participation in the TB OL selection and training process.

Responsibilities

- Welcome students upon arrival to campus.
- Lead activities and/or games that encourage new student interaction with OLs and one another.
- Facilitate three-night, four-day Pre-Orientation trips in conjunction with professional guides & UNE Faculty/Staff during Trailblazer orientation sessions. Trips include backcountry travel and camping, front country travel and camping, boating, and urban travel.
- Lead discussion groups of incoming students as assigned.
- Acquaint new students with campus services, activities, and building locations.
- Serve as a resource person for incoming students.
- Attend orientation-sponsored events for first year students, as outlined.
- Facilitate all Trailblazer traditions.

Expectations as an Orientation Leader

- Be an enthusiastic member of the UNE community.
- Be willing to purposefully invest in the lives of first year and transfer students.
- Commit to attending required training sessions.
- Be able to facilitate discussions and icebreakers in a group setting.
- Be willing to invest time outside of training meetings to learn what you need to know about the UNE community.
- Be willing to learn and grow in your leadership capacity.
- Be open and honest about your UNE experiences while also representing the University in a positive and collaborative way.
- Be passionate about your role as a Trailblazer Orientation Leader and assist in the recruitment of the next year's OL team.
- Physical expectations
 - Willingness to camp for three consecutive nights in remote settings
 - Able to walk up to 6 miles a day with a backpack over uneven terrain
 - Willingness to use small boats in coastal waters (kayaks, canoes, etc.)
 - Lift 50 lbs. to waist height
- Please contact the Trailblazer team if you are unable to complete these tasks; we may be able to make accommodations.

Spring Semester Dates, 2026:

- Meet the Team Training: date TBD
- UNE Accepted Students Days (March 28, April 11, and April 18)
 - TB OLs will be required to work at least 2 of the 3 Accepted Students Days

Summer Dates, 2026 (most weeks will be 50+ hours):

- 6/3 - Move in (TENTATIVE)
- 6/4-6/5 - Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course
- 6/8-6/13 - Training trip (TENTATIVE)
- 6/17-6/20 - TB Week 1
- 6/24-6/27 - TB Week 2
- August, First Generation Bridge Program
 - Participation is not required for all TB OLs
 - Dates TBD

Compensation:

Orientation Leaders will receive an hourly rate of \$15.10/hr., or the current minimum wage. Housing will be provided for Trailblazer OLs in June.

For more information contact Mira D'Amato, Assistant Director of Outdoor Recreation and Education, at mdamato1@une.edu.