Mission: Possible Advisor Position Description

Program Design
Mission: Possible is a service immersion program that was started in 1998 and has grown to include 10 sites and over 130 Gonzaga students, faculty and staff. The Mission: Possible program is a week-long service trip that engages students in an immersive learning experience that focuses on an issue of social justice. The sites for the 2014 program are: St. Louis, MO; Jonestown, MS; Knoxville TN; Tacoma, WA; Portland, OR; Neah Bay, WA; Denver, CO; Browning, MT; Pheonix, AZ; and San Francisco, CA.

Essential Job Functions:
The MP Advisor’s primary role is to act as a representative of the University in case of emergencies or disciplinary action. Another key role is to support the work of the MP Student Coordinator. Advisors work alongside students in service throughout the week and help the MP Student Coordinator with such items as logistics, shopping, driving, and reflections.

Philosophy of Mission: Possible
Mission: Possible is framed around the Four Pillars of simplicity, spirituality, community, and justice. The Mission: Possible experience incorporates these pillars into the trip. Each trip has a social justice focus such as environmental sustainability, working with marginalized populations, such as the homeless, or developmentally disabled adults, or working with at risk youth. Simplicity is embraced by sleeping on the floor, eating a simple diet and limiting our use of showers, phones, iPods and other electronic devices (food allergies and special needs will be accommodated). We also incorporate spirituality through daily reflections, and spend most of our time serving together and living together as a cohesive group.

Important Dates & Times
Trip Timeline: Spring Break (March)

Fall Timeline:
- Student Registration (beginning of October)
- Welcome Meeting (end of October)
- MP Site Meeting 2 (beginning of November)
- Gathering with your site group (late Nov/early Dec)

Spring Timeline:
- Pillar Meeting 1 (end of January)
- Pillar Meeting 2 (beginning of February)
- Gathering with your site group (late Jan/early Feb)
- Missioning Ceremony in the Student Chapel (Friday before Spring Break)
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Eligibility
- Full-time exempt Gonzaga University faculty or staff
- Written supervisor approval (staff)
- Experience working closely with students
- Strong oral communication skills
- Ability to work as a team member
- Valid driver’s license and good driving record

Expectations:
- Respond to any emergencies and act as a formal representative of the University.
- Attend advisor training in late Nov./ or early Dec.
- Attend one-two logistical meetings with Student Coordinator before departure (covering expenses, reflections, site set up).
- Become acquainted with your site group before leaving. Site Advisors are encouraged to attend the meetings and pre-spring break gatherings. These group gatherings usually occur in the evenings at 9pm.
- Actively participate in discussions and readings with Student Coordinator in order to engage with students and learn about your site.
- Build community by serving alongside students and local community members.
- Look for opportunities to increase student learning through conversations and nightly reflections.
- Meet at least once with the Student Coordinator to debrief the strengths and weaknesses of the program post trip and to review the budget and make sure all expenses were properly accounted for.
- Meet with other advisors post trip to debrief site and experience.
- Every advisor should strive to be flexible and prepare for the unexpected challenges of travelling and working with a large group.
- We ask that advisors be willing to be a resource to future site advisors.