

VIA FERRATA INSTRUCTOR

Southeast Mountain Guides – Red River Gorge, Kentucky

Position Overview

A Via Ferrata Instructor (“VFI”) at Southeast Mountain Guides facilitates safe, engaging, and memorable experiences for guests on our cable-protected climbing course in the Red River Gorge. This role is ideal for individuals who enjoy working outdoors, connecting with people of all ages, and contributing to a mission-oriented, team-centered workplace.

What Is a Via Ferrata?

Via ferrata is a style of outdoor climbing in which participants traverse a cliff face using iron rungs while being continuously secured to a steel cable system. It provides a unique climbing experience accessible to beginners and exciting for experienced adventurers.

Employment Information

- **Location:** Campton, Kentucky
 - **Seasonal Position:** March 1 – December 1
 - **Typical Weekly Hours:** 22–32 hours across 3–4 days per week
 - **Full Range:** 16–45 hours across 2–5 days, including weekends
 - **Work Culture:** We aim to hire developing professionals who want to grow with Southeast over multiple seasons.
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About Southeast Mountain Guides

Our mission is to help people who want to experience rock climbing or become rock climbers. We value authentic connection with people, and our team is made up of professional, servant-hearted leaders who work hard and support one another.

We offer:

- Via Ferrata (cable climbing system)

- Guided Rock Climbing
- Guided Rappelling

All in the world-class Red River Gorge, Kentucky.

Position Description

As a VFI, you will help guests safely navigate our via ferrata and contribute to an encouraging, welcoming environment. This position offers opportunities to build:

- Excellent communication and people skills
- Confidence in public speaking
- Outdoor leadership experience
- Pathways for growth within the organization

VFIs spend most of their workday outdoors and engage directly with individuals, families, youth groups, large groups, and more.

Primary Responsibilities

- Help client check-in by verifying waivers and taking payment
 - Lead 45-minute hands-on via ferrata orientations for clients
 - Supervise climbers on the course, providing corrections as needed
 - Perform via ferrata rescues, including climbing to a client, using a rope and 3:1 haul system, and lowering them safely
 - Inspect, clean, and maintain climbing equipment
 - Assist in cleaning and maintaining the facility and surrounding grounds
 - Perform basic manual labor such as trail work and weedeating
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Minimum Qualifications

- Passion for working with people of all ages and group sizes

- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
 - Alignment with Southeast's mission and core values
 - Physically capable of performing all job duties, including climbing
 - Enjoyment of working outdoors in all weather conditions
 - Ability and willingness to work weekends
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Preferred Qualifications

- Desire to work multiple seasons and grow within the company
 - Familiarity with the Red River Gorge
 - Experience in instruction, public speaking, or customer service
 - Moderate climbing experience
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Hours, Pay & Scheduling

- **Hourly Rate:** \$17/hour
 - **Overtime Pay:** Time-and-a-half for hours worked over 40
 - VFIs work nearly every Saturday and Sunday, plus one weekday throughout the season (March 1 – December 1).
 - Learn more about scheduling and hours during the interview process.
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How to Apply

Submit your application through our website:

<https://www.southeastmountainguides.com/employment/>

If you have questions, feel free to email nicole@southeastmountainguides.com or call us at 606-668-6613.

Interview Process

The hiring process includes approximately three interviews:

1. **Initial Interview**
2. **Skills Test Interview**
3. **Culture Fit Interview**

These interviews may be conducted virtually or in person.

Training

Training consists of:

- **~2 weeks of initial training**
- **~1 month of intermittent mentorship**

Training begins mid-February.

- **Training Pay:** \$16/hour, with increase as benchmarks are met
 - The official season begins **March 1st**
 - Exceptions may be made for certain candidates or hiring timelines
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We look forward to reviewing your application!