Coordinator:
Connie Magnuson, Ph.D.
Recreation, Park and Leisure Studies Department Director, University of Minnesota

Dr. Connie Magnuson is the Director of the Recreation, Park and Leisure Studies (RPLS) program at the University of Minnesota and faculty member in the School of Kinesiology. She oversees all aspects of the RPLS Major and the Outdoor Recreation and Education Minor. Teaching, curriculum and program development, community relations, instructor supervision, student advising, and program administration are some of her responsibilities. She teaches several courses abroad including trips to Belize, Costa Rica, Kenya and Tanzania. She is the recent recipient of the University of Minnesota President’s Award for Outstanding Service (2014).

Instructor:
Mitch Hoffman, M.S. Recreation Administration and Outdoor Recreation
Recreation, Park and Leisure Studies Instructor, University of Minnesota
Center for Outdoor Adventure, Program Director

Mitch Hoffman has been actively leading outdoor trips since 1998 and teaches outdoor recreation and education courses emphasizing outdoor skills such as rock climbing, ice climbing, mountain biking, Nordic skiing, winter camping in addition to conservation, sustainability, outdoor survival, cooking, first aid and Leave No Trace principles. As the Program Director he oversees all aspects of the University’s Center for Outdoor Adventure programming, leader training, trip development, equipment management and rental and a wide variety of clinics and workshops. Mitch has served on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education and remains actively involved in furthering the profession of collegiate outdoor recreation. Mitch is an instructor in the Outdoor Recreation and Education Minor at the University of Minnesota.

Instructor:
Alex McKinney, M.A. Outdoor Recreation
Recreation, Park and Leisure Studies Instructor, University of Minnesota
Outdoor Recreation Supervisor, Three Rivers Park District

As supervisor of the Outdoor Recreation School for Three Rivers Park District, Alex leads a team that reaches over 25,000 people annually, exposing youth and adults to new experiences in the outdoors. He is involved in a number of committees for Three Rivers Park District including employee training, master park planning, ADA reforms, winter park use, and commercial use of public lands. Through his works most recently, he has received the programming excellence award from the Minnesota Recreation and Parks
Association (2014), innovative programming honorable mention award for the National Institute of Senior Centers (2014), was recognized as a Rising Alumni from the University of Minnesota’s College of Education and Human Development (2013). Alex has been featured by numerous regional new media outlets and several local news outlets for his expertise and advice on outdoor recreation and education. Alex is an instructor in the Outdoor Recreation and Education Minor at the University of Minnesota.