

SPOTLIGHT ON SCOTT PRICE

SENIOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR,
WOODMAN POINT RECREATION CAMP



You're likely to find Scott with his feet off the ground, up on the roping course or one of WA's biggest flying foxes out at Woodman Point Recreation Camp in Coogee. Having climbed up the ranks from Instructor to Senior Program Coordinator, his greatest achievements are written all over the smiling faces of every client and student, leader and instructor he's supported, encouraged and empowered to take a leap in the outdoors.

“ Seeing happy faces out in the field is the best thing. Seeing others achieve something they didn't think they could do or overcome a personal challenge in the outdoors. ”

Give us your bbq pitch. What do you do?

I supervise and coordinate the full range of activities and programs at Woodman Point Recreation Camp in Coogee, funded by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. Ours is quite a large recreation camp, so I manage a large team of around 40 outdoor leaders who work across a wide range of programs from high ropes to land, beach and water activities. That means my role involves a fair amount admin, including booking programs for schools, community groups, disability groups and private clients and rostering our team to deliver those programs. But I also spend a lot of time out there in the field, supervising, developing and inducting new staff members.

Did you always plan to work in this industry?

I've always been really passionate about the outdoors and sport. Originally, I had my sights set on becoming a teacher of physical education and got accepted on the Bachelor of Health and Physical Education course at the University of Notre Dame. But as I'd gone straight from school to uni, I decided to defer my second year and took some time away from study.

So, how did you get into outdoor recreation?

While I was studying, I did a first aid course, got a Working With Children Check and took a job as an outdoor recreation instructor, rotating around three camps, including Point Walter, Bickley and Woodman Point. I really enjoyed the opportunities this role offered to work outdoors and empower people to achieve things they didn't think they were capable of doing.

I guess the turning point for me was the day I took a group of deaf students out on a paddling trip at Woodman Point and seeing their expressions of enjoyment and gratification. That was just so rewarding. I never went back to uni, I followed this path instead, got my qualifications to operate all the different activities on the camp and worked my way up from instructor to leader to coordinator. And most recently, I completed a Cert IV in Training and Assessment for my role as Senior Coordinator.

How would you describe yourself?

I'm a real people person who's really approachable and easy to talk to. In my early career as an instructor, I learned how important it is to be able to communicate well with your peers, as well as people of all ages, from

all backgrounds and cultures and with different levels of physical ability too. Developing those soft skills helped me progress my career. It meant that when I stepped up to leader and supervisor – I was able to give clear feedback to the instructors so they could develop their soft skills too.

What do you love most about the industry?

Our industry is so broad, with lots of different bodies, organisations and independent businesses all over WA creating so many different outdoor experiences for people to experience, and great opportunities and lifestyles for those like me who love working outdoors. High ropes, rock climbing, abseiling, and especially the flying fox are my personal favourites.

What's the best part of your job?

Seeing happy faces out in the field is the best thing. Seeing others achieve something they didn't think they could do or overcome a personal challenge in the outdoors. That goes for our new instructors too. Sometimes they're really nervous when they start the job, and to see them progress into confident, exceptional outdoor leaders is so fulfilling.

What's your best advice for anyone starting out?

Find what it is that you really love by getting out there and experiencing as many different kinds of outdoor recreation that you can. Whether that's just for fun, or on work experience.

And what's next for you?

We've got some really exciting projects happening in our camp to develop and enhance our programs. We're about to get some new high roping facilities and I can't wait to get our clients out there. Beyond that, maybe, hopefully, one day I'll get to manage a recreation camp.

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