

Request for participation in research project

"A qualitative study of pedagogical perspectives in Wilderness therapy"

Background and Purpose

Wilderness therapy is a widespread and growing treatment modality that has progressed over several decades. This group-based therapeutic model combines the restorative qualities of nature with structured and intentional therapeutic work. Wilderness therapy includes learning of basic outdoor recreation skills and nature activities.

According to the research studies, there seems to be a limited knowledge of what actually takes place in the wilderness therapy practice and what characterizes the therapist's pedagogical work. Meanwhile, previous research within the field has expressed a request for further investigation on the wilderness therapy content and how it is facilitated.

The purpose of this study is to understand and explain what wilderness therapy involves from a pedagogical perspective. The study investigates wilderness therapy in general based on literature and through concrete examples from a Norwegian and a Spanish practice. The object of interest is the therapists, their pedagogics and reflections about their work.

The study is a master's thesis research project on the master's programme in Outdoor Studies at the University of South-Eastern Norway.

The sample of persons requested to participate are therapists at established wilderness therapy programmes in Norway and Spain respectively.

What does participation in the project imply?

Participation in this study involves a qualitative interview. The questions will concern your pedagogical work in the wilderness therapy programme. The questions will be based on a literature study and a participating observation as a preliminary study. The intention of the preliminary study is to give the researcher an understanding of the field and a foundation for the interview questions.

The manner in which the data will be collected is audio recordings on a dictaphone. The recordings will later be transcribed.

What will happen to the information about you?

All personal data will be treated confidentially. Only the student and supervisor will have access to personal data. The recordings will be stored on a secured computer without names and recognizable data.

The participants will not be recognizable in the publication but, if agreed to, the researcher would like to use the name of the wilderness therapy programmes the therapists work at.

The project is scheduled for completion by January 2019. By project completion the data will be made anonymous and the recordings will be deleted.

Voluntary participation

It is voluntary to participate in the project, and you can at any time choose to withdraw your consent without stating any reason. If you decide to withdraw, all your personal data will be made anonymous.

If you would like to participate or if you have any questions concerning the project, please contact project leader/student Sophia Hjorth, telephone number: +45 28 29 80 84, e-mail: sophiahjorth@gmail.com or supervisor Annette Bischoff +47 971 77 203, e-mail: Annette.Bischoff@usn.no

The study has been notified to the Data Protection Official for Research, NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data.

Consent for participation in the study

I have received information about the project and am willing to participate

(Signed by participant, date)